DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION
ACTIVITIES FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

# REPOSITIONING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AS AN EFFECTIVE TOOL FOR ACHIEVING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## Report of the
## First National Conference on

# Community Development in Nigeria

Date:
28 January – 2 February 2007

Venue:
Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria

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## CONFERENCE PARTNERS

**The following organisations provided financial and technical support for convening of the First National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria:**

- Department of Community Development and Population Activities, Federal Ministry of Health
- Community Life Project (CLP)
- Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs
- ActionAid International Nigeria
- Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN)
- Centre for Enterprise Development and Action Research (CEDAR)
- Chevron
- ENHANCE/USAID-NIGERIA
- EU-SRIP
- Ford Foundation
- Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)
- Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC)
- Nigeria LNG Limited (NLNG)
- Shell Petroleum Development Corporation
- Society for Family Health (SFH)
- The World Bank
- UBA Foundation
- WEMA Bank Nigeria PLC

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DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION
ACTIVITIES FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

COMMUNITY LIFE PROJECT

Report of National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria (NCCD 2007) January 28 - February 2, 2007

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| AAC | Archdeaconry Advisory Committee (Anglican Communion) |
| AAIN | ActionAid International Nigeria |
| AIDS | Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome |
| BLP | Better Life Programme for Rural Dwellers |
| CBO(s) | Community Based Organisation(s) |
| CDD | Community-Driven Development |
| CDPA | Department of Community Development and Population Activities |
| CEDAR | Centre for Enterprise Development and Action Research |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| CHBC | Community Home Based Care |
| CLP | Community Life Project |
| COWAN | Country Women Association of Nigeria |
| CSO(s) | Civil Society Organisation(s) |
| DFID | British Government Department for International Development |
| DFRRI | Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| ENHANCE | |
| EU-SRIP | European Union Support for Reforming Institutions Programme |
| FBO(s) | Faith-Based Organisation(s) |
| FEPA | Federal Environmental Protection Agency |
| FMOH | Federal Ministry of Health |
| FSP | Family Support Programme |
| GAD | Gender and Development |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus |
| ILD | Integrated Local Development |
| LCDD | Local and Community-Driven Development |
| LEEMP | Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Programme |

| | |
|---|---|
| NEEDS | National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy |
| NEPAD | New Partnerships for Africa's Development |
| NLC | Nigerian Labour Congress |
| NLNG | Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Limited |
| NDDC | Niger Delta Development Commission |
| OSSAP | Office of the Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs |
| OVC | Orphans and Vulnerable Children |
| PABA | |
| PAC | Project Advisory Committee (Anglican Communion) |
| PMTCT | Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission |
| PLWHA | People Living with HIV/AIDS |
| PSRHH | Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Reduction Programme |
| SEPA | State Environmental Protection Agency |
| SFH | Society for Family Health |
| SWAAN | Society for Women and AIDS in Africa - Nigeria |
| UNFPA | United Nations Fund for Population Activities |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| VCCT | Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing |
| WAD | Women and Development |
| WID | Women in Development |
| WHO | World Health Organisation |

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*We recognise and applaud the contributions of all the conference partners who displayed genuine commitment to the promotion of community development in Nigeria and to the success of this conference in the true spirit of public - private - people - partnership.*

*Also remarkable and worthy of praise is the active participation of delegates at the conference sessions and the selfless service of committee members and volunteers.*

*We look forward to continuing this unique partnership towards repositioning Community Development in Nigeria.*

### Conveners

Dept of Community Department
& Population Activities (CDPA)
Federal Ministry of Health.

Community Life Project
9 Ilori Street, Ire-Akari Estate,
Isolo, Lagos.

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COMMUNITY LIFE PROJECT

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DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION
ACTIVITIES FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Community Life Project

# PART I

## INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

# INTRODUCTION
## *AND*
# BACKGROUND

# INTRODUCTION

## THE BACKGROUND

The first National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria was conceived against the background of the country's continuing state of underdevelopment and the need to explore internal resources and national social capital in moving the country forward toward achieving its development goals. Almost a decade into the 21ˢᵗ century, Nigeria continues to lag behind most other Developing Countries in virtually all Human Development indices. This is despite the huge amount of resources committed by government, international agencies and private sector organisations to promoting development in the country. As at 2005, Nigeria was ranked among the 20 poorest countries of the world while an estimated 60-70% of Nigerians are currently living below the poverty line.

Nigeria's maternal mortality ratio is one of the highest in the world – 1,000 per 100,000 live births – complemented by peri-natal and neo-natal mortality rates of 90 per 1000 births and 35 deaths per 1,000 births respectively (NDHS 2003). Life expectancy which was 53.3 years for females and 51.3 years males in 2001 has declined even further according to the World Health Organisation (WHO), while Nigeria accounts for the third largest burden of HIV/AIDS in the world (after India and South Africa) with 3.3 million people infected.

The United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000 has made even more challenging, the task confronting development practitioners in Nigeria. The world's Heads of States and Governments committed themselves to promoting peace and security, human dignity, human rights, gender equity, and to accelerating the pace of economic and social development, foundational to which is the eradication of poverty. This commitment gave rise to the 8 inter-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) most of which had set targets to be achieved by 2015. With only eight more years left for achieving the goals (eradicating extreme poverty by halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger; achieving universal primary education, reducing under-five child mortality by two-thirds, reducing by three-quarters the maternal mortality ratio, halving or reversing the incidence of malaria and other diseases, halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water...) the prospect of attaining the goals and target remains very grim in Nigeria.

It is now generally accepted by stakeholders, that **community participation and ownership** are crucial, not only for attaining Development targets but also for accelerating the pace and ensuring the sustainability of Human Development Programmes in virtually all sectors. Community-based and community-level programmes are therefore vital tools for achieving the Millennium Development Goals as well as ensuring cost-effectiveness of Development investments. However, despite the awareness of the importance of increasing local community participation in decision-making, and in the formulation and implementation of pro-poor social policies, a great deal of learning still needs to be done on how to effectively achieve community participation and ownership.

The first National Conference on Community Development was conceived as a response to this need to learn from successful initiatives and to forge more partnerships towards promoting community ownership, cost-effectiveness and sustainability of development programmes and investments in Nigeria. The Conference aimed at examining how to effectively harness Nigeria's wealth of social capital, existing social structures, networks and community resources towards meeting the MDG targets and promoting development in the country. It was expected to provide a platform for redefining the concept of community development, for learning from unsuccessful experiments and interventions and for promoting the dissemination and replication of best practices.

## PRELUDE TO THE CONFERENCE

The idea of convening a National Conference on Community Development cannot be separated from the efforts of Community Life Project (CLP), to scale up and promote its model of community level health intervention. CLP is a Lagos-based non-governmental organisation devoted to the promotion of community participating and ownership of development programmes. Between 1992 and 1996, CLP had developed a model of community-level partnership with community associations and local institutions (auto mechanics, vulcanisers, tailors, community development associations, faith-based organisations, schools, health facilities, traditional ruling council in Isolo community, etc.) around an agenda for health, sexuality and life skills education, personal empowerment and improved livelihoods.

Promoting and scaling up the CLP model required the development of partnership with various agencies and organisations including those that could make the required funding available and those that have a stake in community-driven development in various parts of the country. Following CLP's initial outreach, two oil companies entered into a dialogue with the organisation on the possibility of partnering with it as well as the Ford Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation, towards replication of the CLP model in the oil companies' host communities. The oil companies were particularly attracted to *the potential of the CLP model for promoting personal agency and social cohesion at the community level.*

CLP also sought to partner with the Department of Community Development and Population Activities of (CDPA) of the Federal Ministry of Health in scaling up the implementation of the CLP model. The organisation's outreach to the Ministry and to the Departments of Community Development at the state level elicited a favourable response. According to the Deputy Director for Community Development in Delta State, "*The CLP approach provides the missing link in the development work by focusing on the 'software' component of community*

*development by bringing to the fore a grossly neglected local resource – Social Capital – by harnessing and developing social capital and expanding the concept of self-help to include personal empowerment.*"

Thus, at their April 2003 meeting, the National Conference of Directors of Community Development in Nigeria selected seven local government areas from the six geo-political zones of the country and the Federal Capital Territory for pilot implementation. Between 2003 and 2004, the CLP model was presented to stakeholders, including state and local government officials, village heads, and representatives of community organisations, faith-based organisations and local institutions, in the selected LGAs. The model was well received and more Directors of Community Development and states started requesting for the CLP model to be replicated in their states. However, as a small non-governmental organisation, lacked the capacity to respond at the level being demanded and this made even more necessary a national approach that would involve the CDPA adopting the model, and institutionalising and mainstreaming it into their existing programmes.

In October 2004, CLP organised a Strategic Planning Workshop facilitated by Management Systems International, USA, on how to scale up strategically. Participants at the meeting suggested the convening of a national conference on community development to draw attention to the important of community development as a vital tool for promoting all aspects of human development in the country. At their meeting in April 2005 in Bayelsa, the National Conference of Directors of Community Development agreed to partner with CLP to organise the proposed national conference. Both sides agreed to produce a Strategic Framework for the Implementation of a Community Development Policy in the country. Shortly after the meeting, CLP wrote to the Honourable Minister of Health and secured ministerial approval for the CDPA to partner with CLP in organising the Conference. However, it was not until over a year later, in

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July 2006, that CLP and CDPA met to plan the Conference, identify potential partners and define the theme, objectives and focus areas of the Conference.

## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

For the purpose of the Conference, Community Development was defined as the process of building healthy, prosperous and sustainable societies in which the community is both the agent and beneficiary. It entails the empowerment and full participation of all levels of the community in the conceptualisation, planning, implementation and monitoring of development processes. It also involves harnessing existing knowledge, relationships, networks and resources of individual, families and organisations that make up the community.

In conceptualising the conference, it was expected that participants would examine how to effectively harness Nigeria's wealth of Social Capital, the existing social structures, networks and resources at the community level to meet the country's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is a with a view to repositioning community development as a vital tool for increasing grassroots' people's access to assets, capital, skills and services towards improving their quality of life. The conference was also expected to provide a platform for interrogating the concept of community development in the Nigerian context, promoting the dissemination and replication of best practices as well as learning from unsuccessful programmes and interventions.

Thus, the objectives of the conference were to: Promote greater understanding of the concept of community development and its role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

- Discuss and highlight conceptual and theoretical frameworks and strategies that underpin best practices in community development;
- Explore "What works", showcase innovative community development programmes and promote learning across disciplines and sectors;
- Develop strategies and Plan of Action for strengthening and repositioning

community development practice towards meeting the MDGs in Nigeria; and,
- Provide opportunity for forging new partnerships towards promoting sustainable development in Nigeria.

## THEMATIC FOCUS OF THE CONFERENCE

Seven focus areas were defined from the conference taking into consideration the cardinal elements of the Millennium Development Goals. Under the broad rubric of these seven focus areas, participants were expected to interrogate various issues. The defined focus areas and their sub-themes include:

1. **The Community in the Fight against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis**
   - Community participation in prevention, care, support and treatment of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis
   - Role of community-based organisations, faith-based organisations in HIV/AIDS prevention and control in Nigeria
   - Role of Public-Private Partnership in HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria control
   - The community in the mitigation of impact of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (orphan care, support for widows, etc.)
   - The role of the community in monitoring interventions in HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

2. **Community Development, Poverty Reduction and Pro-poor services**
   - Micro finance and community development
   - Community participation in government's poverty reduction programmes
   - ICT for poverty reduction/community development
   - Community-based economic enterprises
   - Small and medium scale enterprises and community development
   - Resource flows and deployment in community development

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## 3. Gender Issues in Community Development

- Gender dynamics in local governance (with special reference to local councils, community development associations (CDAs), neighbourhood associations.)
- Role of gender-based associations in Community Development.
- Gender, Leadership and Community Development
- Gender inequalities and community development

## 4. Environmental Sustainability, Food Security and Community Development

- Private Public Partnerships in environmental sustainability programmes
- Role of communities in environmental protection
- Community participation in environmental impact assessment
- Community based agro-businesses, environmental sustainability and food security
- Issues in the diffusion of innovation in agricultural and environmental protection (e.g. assessment of rural and agricultural extension schemes)

## 5. Community Relations and Partnership Building

- Community centered strategies for conflict prevention and peace building.
- Community mobilisation, civil engagement and accountability of local government.
- Tripartite (Government, Private Sector and Communities) partnerships for Community Development
- Participatory budgeting and accountability issues in Community Development
- Community media and popular participation in the development process

## 6. Community Development and the Quest for Universal Basic Education

- Role of CBOs & Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs) in UBE
- Private-Public Partnerships for UBE
- Role of Parents-Teachers Associations in UBE
- Grassroots approaches to expansion of access to UBE
- Non-formal approaches to basic education – Koranic, Nomadic

## 7. Community-Centred Approaches to Maternal and Child Health Promotion

- Community component in the integrated management of childhood illnesses
- Community based maternal health care services
- Social and health system's barriers to community participation in maternal and child health services.
- Community Health Extension workers (CHEWs), Traditional Birth attendants (TBAs) and Maternal & Child Health promotion.
- The community and the challenges of routinising basic immunization in Nigeria

### TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The target participants could be classified into five major groups:

1. The community people, that is, the actors themselves particularly those that have organised themselves into groups and were taking initiatives aimed at developing their societies, many (or most) without any form of external support. If community-driven development approach is to be fully conceptualised, it cannot ignore the practical experiences of these direct actors.

2. Development workers, practitioners and facilitators including international development and donor agencies facilitating development work at the community level: it was considered important to share the experiences of these groups and individuals on the

processes and advantages of community-based and community-driven approaches to development interventions. If development workers are to build on what has worked, it was necessary to share the experiences of those in this category.

3. Government agencies with statutory responsibility for development at the community level: attempts to replicate the CLP model would require putting into place national level policy framework and government agencies and institutions provide the most extensive platform through which this could be instituted. No NGO has the reach or the clout of the government to institute a national level policy.

4. Corporate organisations particularly those operating in the communities and who ordinarily should have social responsibilities to those communities in which they are working. These include oil companies most of which are target of hostile action by the communities because of the perceived lack of resonance between their activities and the needs of the communities in which they are operating. Some of these had in the months past approached CLP with a view to learning from it how to develop community level intervention activities that would receive the support of the people.

5. Academics that could contribute conceptual and theoretical perspective that would aid conceptualising the experiences of communities for the purpose of replicating the best practices that obtained with practical level interventions in the communities.

Thus, expected at the conference were:
- Community leaders
- Community development committees/associations
- Senior government officials at both the federal, state and local government levels
- Community Development Directors/Officers
- International agencies (UN, World Bank, etc.)
- Poverty alleviation agencies
- Banks and other financial institutions including micro finance institutions

- NGOs and community-based organisations
- Representatives of the private sector (oil companies, etc.)
- Donor agencies and private foundations
- Community development practitioners
- Academia including students

## ORGANISATION OF THE CONFERENCE

With the ministerial approval for the convening of the conference, the initial partners commenced the search for new partners who would collaborate with the FMOH/CDPA and CLP in convening the conference. The partners were expected to perform a number of roles including but not limited to:
- Sourcing and sponsorship of keynote and lead speakers for each conference theme
- Sponsorship of participants, community-based organisations and community leaders
- Co-hosting and sponsorship of thematic sessions and focus areas
- Sponsorship of conference materials
- Participation in steering committee meetings and providing logistic support

The lead partners thereafter reached out to several governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations, corporate bodies, international development and donor agencies and multilateral institutions to solicit support for the conference and request commitment to partner in convening it. Ultimately, positive responses were received from the following:
- Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs
- ActionAid International Nigeria
- Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN)
- Centre for Enterprise Development and Action Research (CEDAR)
- Nigerian Labour Congress
- Chevron
- Society for Family Health (SFH)
- ENHANCE/USAID-NIGERIA
- EU-SRIP
- Ford Foundation
- The World Bank
- UBA Foundation

- Shell
- WEMA Bank Nigeria PLC
- Nigeria LNG Limited
- Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)

Representatives of these organisations along with those of CDPA and CLP were constituted into a Steering Committee that accepted responsibility for organising the conference.

### The Steering Committee

The inaugural meeting of the Conference Steering Committee was convened on Thursday, October 19, 2006, at the Ford Foundation office in Lagos. Apart from the representatives of the various organisations noted above, a number of individuals were invited in their personal capacity. These include Dr. Clara Ejembi of the Department of Community Medicine, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; and Hajiya Bilkisu Yusuf of Citizen Communications Limited. One of the key decisions of the inaugural meeting was the setting up of three sub-committees: Scientific/Technical, Publicity and Documentation, and Logistics. Participating organisations were allocated to sub-committees based on relevance and interest expressed. The sub-committees had the following members:

1. Scientific/Technical Sub-Committee:
   - The Ford Foundation
   - Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs
   - Shell Petroleum Development Company
   - Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas Limited
   - The World Bank
   - CDPA/FMOH

The original group as listed above was later joined by the Society for Family Health (SFH), ActionAid, and Support to Reforming Institutions Project (SRIP). The sub-committee was chaired by Professor Foluso Okunmadewa of the World Bank.

2. Publicity and Documentation Sub-Committee
   - Society for Family
   - ENHANCE Project/USAID

- Nigerian Labour Congress
- Niger Delta Development Commission
- Country Women Association of Nigeria
- Chevron
- UBA Foundation/UBA Plc

The sub-committee was chaired by Valentine Ozigbo of UBA. Hajiya Bilkisu Yusuf of Citizens Communication Ltd. later joined the sub-committee.

3. Logistics Sub-Committee
   - NLC
   - CDPA and others to be invited by the Secretariat and the NLC

The sub-committee was chaired by Ladi Ilya of the Nigerian Labour Congress

CLP was formally designated as the Conference Secretariat and the Secretariat was to serve on all the sub-committees and provide secretarial support for all their work and be responsible for record keeping. The Secretariat was also expected to prepare relevant working documents to assist the work of the sub-committees and the Steering Committee itself. In order to cut costs and avoid duplication of responsibilities, the CDPA-FMOH was requested to provide logistics responsibilities at the local level in Abuja. This was in lieu of setting up a local organising committee in Abuja where the conference was to hold.

### Scientific Activities

The work of the Scientific/Technical Sub-Committee was crucial to preparations for the conference. The sub-committee was charged with achieving broad and all inclusive sectoral participation at the conference. To achieve its objectives, apart from issuing a formal conference announcement and *Call for Papers*, the sub-committee set out to identify leading experts in the various thematic areas to serve as keynote and lead speakers particularly at the plenary sessions. Advertisements were placed in leading national and regional newspapers which had the capacity to reach large audiences. In addition, a conference website was developed to which respondents would submit their abstracts electronically. Working through the

Ford Foundation, the sub-committee attempted to reach a number of international speakers including Yunus Mohammed of Grameen Bank and Wangari Maathi of the Green Belt Movement. However, it turned out that these personalities could not be available for various reasons. Nationally, efforts were made to contact leading names in the development field which yielded fruits as Professor Akin Mabogunje agreed to deliver the conference Keynote Address.

The Scientific/Technical Sub-Committee succeeded in securing commitments from various speakers to deliver the lead papers on each of the major theme of the conference, while at the same time it worked on the abstracts submitted by various individuals and organisations for presentation on different aspects of the conference themes and sub-themes. Papers were allocated to various sessions with parallel or simultaneous sessions organised around each plenary theme. Many of the abstracts submitted for presentation at the conference were from organisations that were keen to share their practical experiences in the field on community based development initiatives.

Apart from the scientific papers, the Scientific/Technical Sub-committee provided for special sessions during which certain organisations had the opportunity of presenting their experiences and sharing their perspectives on issues pertaining to community level initiatives. A number of stakeholders such as the media and the oil and gas industry belonged to this category.

The Scientific/Technical sub-committee constantly reviewed the state of preparation for the scientific elements of the conference. A draft programme indicating themes and sessions was produced that was constantly refined following the confirmation of more speakers and the availability or otherwise of provisional speakers. The sub-committee allocated papers to the various simultaneous sessions with papers on particular themes and sub-themes grouped together. The sub-committee also provisionally allocated

chairpersons and discussants for each session including plenary and simultaneous sessions. While some of those allocated to chair particular sessions or discuss certain papers were not available and alternative arrangements had to be made at the venue of the conference, the preliminary work done by the sub-committee eased the organisational problems usually associated with such activities at several conferences of this type.

The plenary sessions were structured to accommodate one lead speaker, a chair and co-chair, and a maximum of three discussants. Apart from the Opening Plenary session, the conference provided for seven plenary sessions each to be followed by simultaneous sessions in which the thematic focus of the plenary is broken down to sub-themes for more in-depth and experience-sharing discussions. The conference also provided for eight special meetings, viz.:

1. Social Fund/Community-Driven Development
2. Media Roundtable
3. Corporate Social Responsibility
4. CLP Model
5. PLWHA Session
6. SFF-PEP Model
7. Oil and Gas Roundtable
8. EU-SRIP Roundtable

Part of the scientific activities was the mounting of exhibitions by various organisations. Nine of the partnering organisations led the way by agreeing to mount exhibitions as a way of supporting the work of the conference. These were:

1. Shell Petroleum Development Company
2. UBA Foundation
3. ACTIONAID International
4. Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN)
5. Society for Family Health
6. LEEMP/FADAMA/CPRP
7. Nigeria LNG Limited
8. Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)
9. Community Life Project

In addition, UNITAR – a partner organisation of NDDC – and Water Aid also joined in mounting exhibitions.

Ultimately, about sixty abstracts were received and evaluated by the Scientific Sub-Committee for presentation at the conference. Only a few were accepted outright; the majority were accepted provisionally subject to the authors meeting the required amendments suggested by the Scientific Sub-committee. Sixteen abstracts were rejected outright for not meeting the standards expected for the conference. More abstracts were received for the sessions on The Community in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis and Community Relations and Partnership Building. This was followed by the submissions for Community Development, Poverty Reduction and Pro-poor Services. The other themes received fairly the same number of submissions. Upon the acceptance of any abstract, authors were advised to develop their abstracts into full papers following the guidelines developed by the Scientific/Technical sub-committee. In order to source for good abstracts and enhance the quality of participation at the conference, members of the Scientific Committee and the larger Conference Steering Committee were requested to reach out to individuals that they know who have the capacity to contribute to the scientific work of the conference. In particular, organisers from international funding agencies were asked to encourage their grantees to do the same. All this helped to enhance the overall quality of the national conference.

## Funding and the Role of Partners

The participation of partners in the organisation of the conference was tied to the discharge of specific responsibilities. Most of the organisations that committed themselves to partnering with the CDPA/FMOH and CLP in putting the conference together were clear about the need to support the process in financial and material terms. Funding has always remained a major challenge in such initiatives as this – and the first National Conference on Community Development was no exception. To overcome the reluctance of potential donors to part with physical cash, the organisers identified various items required for

the convening of a successful conference and requested partners to determine which items they would accept responsibility for. Items identified include:

- Venues for opening, plenary and simultaneous sessions
- Travel, accommodation and honorarium for keynote speaker and resource persons
- Publicity materials including newspaper adverts and media promotion
- Conference bag and writing materials
- Conference brochure and programme
- Book of Abstracts and Conference Report
- Communication and courier services
- Secretariat and logistics support including provision of computers, photocopy machines and printers
- Air tickets and ground transportation
- Group lunch and tea breaks
- Welcome dinner
- Cultural shows and artist fees
- Conference website
- Documentation

Costing was done for each of these items and the costs were made available to the partners. In addition, partners were also allowed to determine what form their contributions would take particularly those that might prefer to make outright cash donation to facilitate the pre-conference activities. A provisional budget estimate was made to the tune of N39,751,600 (Thirty-nine Million, seven hundred and fifty-one thousand, six hundred Naira). During the course of various steering committee meetings, different partners committed themselves to specific activities. For example:

- The World Bank expressed its willingness to pay the cost of one day's plenary, fund the participation of a number of international resource persons; sponsor community participants, and sponsor agencies and groups with success stories on poverty alleviation and community-driven development;
- The Ford Foundation supported the Secretariat activities to the tune of $20,000 and accepted responsibility for sourcing international keynote speakers and funded the participation of some international guests;

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- Shell Petroleum Development Company committed itself to sponsoring the Welcome Dinner, the Opening Ceremony, the participation of opinion/community leaders and of state and local government officials from host official, as well as those of Shell staff. The Company also agreed to mount exhibition;

- ActionAid committed itself to sponsoring 34 community people and partners from the 12 °states where the organisation was running its Partnership Against Poverty programme;

- The Society for Family Health committed to sponsoring 30 participants from some of the 250 communities in which it is working, mounting an exhibition, share experience on its PEP model, provide technical support, and make some direct funding available;

- EU-SRIP committed to sponsoring a round table on Community Participation in Institutional Reforms in Nigeria and to sponsor 24 participants;

- The UBA committed itself to contributing at least N2.5 million – which was subsequently raised to N3 million at point of redemption of the pledge;

- The NLC committed to sponsoring 30 participants to the conference;

- The Nigerian LNG Limited agreed to sponsor 20 participants and staff and provide the conference bags and materials;

- The NDDC committed to sponsoring one day plenary while sponsoring participants from its host communities to attend the conference;

- CHEVRON agreed to sponsor the production of the conference report.

- The OSSAP-MDGs committed itself to sponsoring a conference plenary as well as the participation of staff from offices and the MDG line ministries;

- CDPA assumed responsibility for organising high profile pre- and post-conference press events involving government Ministers, providing ambulance services as well as staff buses for use during the conference, securing favourable rates from the Abuja Leasing

Company, while still making some financial contribution. The CDPA also sponsored the Consultant for the development of the CD Strategic Framework.

Hence, essentially, most of the supports provided for the conference were in material terms. Sponsors were able to tie their support to particular items. Only the Ford Foundation and UBA Foundation gave direct cash support and this was to facilitate the work of the Secretariat. Other organisations that sponsored various items were making direct payments to Transcorp Hilton, for example, for the cost of plenary sessions (use of the hall and the satellite rooms), welcome dinner, logistics and other services.

## Logistics

The Logistics sub-committee was responsible for making all arrangements relating to all such issues conference venue, accommodation, transportation and general welfare of participants at the conference. The sub-committee secured the Transcorp Hilton Hotel in Abuja as venue for the conference while it worked several other hotels in the city to obtain accommodation at discounted rates for participants. The sub-committee liaised with transport companies for the hiring of vehicles to facilitate movement throughout the duration of the conference at discounted rates and with a professional events outfit for the provision of laptops. The work of the Logistics sub-committee included the organisation and allocation of the exhibition spaces for interested organisations, and the provision of security at the conference venue.

The pre-conference preparation was concluded with the convening of a ministerial press conference on 24 January 2007 at which the Hon. Minister of Health addressed the press on the conference, its objectives and expectations.

## OPENING CEREMONY

### Introduction

The first National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria kicked off with an Opening Session which was a combination of the Opening Plenary and Opening Ceremony which were originally planned as separate events. The Opening Session was held between 10.00 and 1.00 p.m. on Monday, 29th January, 2007.

Guests present at the ceremony included:
- The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, Chief Olusegun Obasanja, the Special Guest of Honour, who was represented by the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Hajiya Miriam Ciroma;
- The Honourable Minister of Health, Professor Eyitayo Lambo, represented by the Director, Community Development and Population Activities (CDPA), Dr. Shehu Sule, mni, OFR;
- The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Hajiya Amina Ibrahim;
- Executive Director, Community Life Project, Mrs Ngozi Nwere;
- Conference Keynote Speaker, Professor Akin Mabogunje; and
- Country Representation of the World Bank in Nigeria, Dr. Hafez Ghanem, represented by Professor Foluso Okunmadewa.

### Opening Remarks

The session opened with opening remarks given by Dr. Shehu Sule in his capacity as Director, CDPA. Dr. Sule thereafter welcomed all participants and especially all resource persons on behalf of the Honourable Minister



L-R: Prof. Foluso Okunmadewa, Hajiya Amina Ibrahim, Dr. Shehu Sule, OFR, Mrs. Ngozi Iwere and Prof. Akin Mabogunje at the opening ceremony.

of Health and the entire staff of the Ministry. He noted that the conference is a 'new process' expected to engender collective ownership of development through integrated and concerted efforts. All partners and stakeholders were encouraged to seize the opportunity to take real stock of their individual roles and responsibilities towards the attainment of the MDGs, learn new things and build more partnerships for ensuring community emancipation and uplifting of the Nigerian people. A significant key output that the Ministry expected from the Conference is a new agenda for Community Development in Nigeria.

## Goodwill Messages

Goodwill messages were delivered by a number of stakeholders present at the conference. The first goodwill message was delivered by the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals



(MDGs), Hajiya Amina Ibrahim. She congratulated the organizers and the partners for putting the conference together. She pointed out that the eight Millennium Development Goals, though individually defined, are integrated, and that the Conference was an opportunity for Nigeria to

assess the extent to which the goals have been attained and what needed to be done to bridge existing gaps. This requires the same level of commitment that was demonstrated in the pursuit of debt-relief for the country. Hajiya Ibrahim also noted that the conference was an opportunity for Nigeria to assess the extent to which the goals have been attained and what needed to be done to bridge existing gaps. This requires the same level of commitment that was demonstrated in the pursuit of debt-relief for the country. Hajiya Ibrahim also noted that the conference was an appropriate platform to examine the impacts that have so far been made in the attainment of each of the MDGs. She concluded by pointing out that the Government is closely monitoring the implementation of the MDGs through evaluation and partnership with the private sector and technical experts.

The World Bank Country Representative, Professor Okunmadewa, expressed the delight of his organization at being involved in the initiative that led to the convening of the conference aimed at promoting community participation and partnership among governmental, non-governmental and civil society organizations for poverty reduction in Nigeria. He noted that the most potent of the poverty reduction initiatives in the country are those that are demand-driven, bottom-up and participatory in approach. Community driven development approach is particularly unique in the sense that it promotes grassroots' initiative and participation and also build a sense of ownership and sustainability. The World Bank is supporting more than four projects spread across the country in which the community driven development approach is being utilised. More than $350m is committed to these projects and over 70% of these resources are disbursed to and controlled by the beneficiaries at the community level for welfare enhancing social and economic activities that they have identified and are implementing themselves. Some of the tangible results of the projects are reduction in maternal and child mortality through construction and equipping of primary health centres, improved educational outcomes through construction and equipment

of primary and secondary school classrooms, equipped science laboratories, building of staff quarters in remote communities, improved access to safe drinking water through construction and operation of boreholes and motorized water pumps. In the experience of the World Bank the success of this approach is mainly due to the use of a decentralized and highly responsive institutional arrangement that is devoid of bureaucracy, ensures accountability, encourages relationship between communities and local government, and clarifies roles and responsibilities of every stakeholder. Arising from the tested potency of the community driven development (CDD) approach, the World Bank suggested that there should be a policy instituting CDD as a mechanism for development in Nigeria and that this should be reflected in the forthcoming NEEDS II document.

The Ford Foundation representative, Dr. Babatunde Ahonsi, conveyed the warm greetings from the staff and Regional Representative of the Ford Foundation in West Africa and their pride in providing support for the efforts that led to the conference, which he considered historic. He said that it was particularly gratifying to note that the conference was geared towards repositioning CD as an effective tool for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria. Ford Foundation's support for the conference was informed by two key philosophies that underpinned the Foundation's philanthropic activities in Nigeria. These are (i) the conviction that those who are most affected by or live closest to a problem are the ones best placed to devise real solutions to them, and (ii) real and irreversible change is only attainable when the intended beneficiaries are engaged in the process as active agents rather than passive receptors of change. Given Nigeria's continuing struggle with achieving the MDGs, the Ford Foundation was of the opinion that a well-proven development strategy like CDD offers Nigeria a real chance of making up for the lost time and recovering lost ground if only all the key stakeholders can genuinely engage and run with it.

The Representative of the Managing Director and Chairman of the Niger Delta Development

Commission (NDDC) also expressed delight of his organisation at being a partner in the convening of the First National Conference on Community Development. He reiterated that the NDDC was working assiduously to provide succour to the people of the Niger Delta using a bottom-up, participatory approach. On-going works and future plans are aimed at forestalling hostage taking.

In her goodwill message presented by the Country Director, Mr. Otive Igbuzor, ActionAid International Nigeria commended the organizers noting that Nigeria, like many other third world countries, is facing problems of development such as unemployment, poverty and low quality of life. Furthermore, there is a growing trend to emphasize technical expertise, professional consultation and mega-city development at the expense of community driven development despite the recognition of the importance of community-driven development since the $18^{th}$ century. He noted further that mid-way to the target date for the attainment of the MDGs, there are still many challenges that countries like Nigeria may not be able to overcome without stronger political commitment and strategic course of action. These were the reasons that informed the support of ActionAid International for the conference more so that it was addressing the focal point of the organisation's activities which is poverty eradication and which, in ActionAid's opinion, cannot be tackled outside the communities. The span of community-based activities by ActionAid included HIV/AIDS, governance, conflict and emergencies, education, women's rights, among others. From the experience garnered in the course of implementing programmes in these activity areas, workable and replicable models have been developed and these could help in accelerating community development at the grass root level.

The goodwill message from the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Limited was delivered by its Head of Public Affairs, Ms. Sienne All-Well Brown. The Nigeria LNG Limited considered the conference an appropriate forum for developing an agenda for community-driven

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development in the country. Ms. Brown lamented that over the years, the people at the community level had been sidelined and ignored in developing policies that affect their day-to-day existence and that the people must see themselves as stakeholders in any development initiative if they are to give their support and ensure its success.

### Overview of the Conference

Thereafter, the Director, Community Life Project, Mrs. Ngozi Iwere, gave an overview of the Conference. She stated that the Conference was being convened at a time that stakeholders in the field of social development seem to have reached a consensus that community development is a vital strategy for promoting human development. The idea of the conference was the outcome of the efforts of Community Life Project, CLP, a community-based non-governmental organization, to scale up its activities and promote its model of community level health intervention. Between 1992 and 1996, CLP had developed a model of community-level partnerships with community organizations and local institutions such as auto mechanics, vulcanisers, tailors, community development associations (CDAs), faith based organisations (FBOs), schools, health facilities, and the traditional ruling

council in Isolo community, around an agenda for health, sexuality and life skills education, personal empowerment and improved livelihoods.

Mr. Iwere noted that the conference was one of the concrete outputs of CLP's partnership with the CDPA and that it was conceived as an important platform for engaging stakeholders in the field of human development around a common agenda to ensure that people at the community level not only participate but drive the development process in Nigeria. In April 2005, the National Conference of Directors of Community Development, agreed to partner with CLP to convene this national conference. Thereafter they obtained ministerial approval from the Honourable Minister of Health, Professor Eyitayo Lambo. However, CLP and CDPA reached out to other important stakeholders whose participation and presence would facilitate the development of a national agenda for community development in the country. Thus, the conference was convened jointly with other stakeholders comprising international development agencies and donor agencies such as the Ford Foundation, the World Bank, the USAID, ActionAid International Nigeria, and the Society for Family Health; corporate and private sector organisations including the UBA Foundation, Chevron, Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Limited, SHELL Petroleum Development Company Ltd., and WEMA Bank Plc; civil society organizations including the Country Women Association of Nigeria, the Nigeria Labour Congress, and the National Community Development Council of Nigeria; and Government agencies such as the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs.

The theme of the conference, "Repositioning Community Development as an effective tool for attaining the Millennium Development goals, MDGs", was chosen to give Nigeria a wake-up call. Only eight years away from the deadline of 2015, Nigeria is not in anyway close to delivering on the set goals despite the fact that a lot of money was voted and the apparent political will to attain the MDGs. For instance the proportion of people whose income is less than

a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger is supposed to be reduced by half. But with only 8 years to go, it is estimated that 60 – 70% of Nigerians are currently living below poverty line. Whereas there were 17.7 million Nigeria living in poverty in 1980, by 1996 the number had increased to 67.1 million and the situation is deteriorating. As at 2005, Nigeria was ranked among the poorest 20 countries in the world. With respect to HIV/AIDS, Nigeria has the third largest burden in the world after India and South Africa. And, with regard to Maternal and Child Health, the under-5 mortality rate is very high and, at 1000 per 100,000 live births, the country has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world.

Mrs. Iwere thereafter highlighted the objectives of the conference as including the following:

- To promote greater understanding of the concept of community development and its role in achieving the Millennium development Goals (MDGs);
- To discuss and highlight conceptual and theoretical frameworks and strategies that underpin best practices in community Development;
- To explore "what works", showcase innovative community development programmes and promote learning across disciplines and sector;

- To develop strategies and Plan of Action for strengthening and repositioning Community Development practice towards meeting the MDGs in Nigeria; and
- To provide opportunity for forging new partnerships towards promoting sustainable community development in Nigeria.

Some of the tangible outcomes expected from the meeting were:

- A clearly redefined and expanded concept of community development in Nigeria.
- Advancement of the partnership process by working together post-conference to:
  - Strengthen and reposition the Community Development Department at all levels of government;
  - Reinforce on-going policy advocacy with respect to Community Development in Nigeria;
  - Establish a well-coordinated mechanism for harnessing social capital, structures and networks at the community level towards meeting the MDGs; and,
  - Effective and functional partnership between government and non-government agencies to promote goal-oriented and target-specific human development programmes which are genuinely community and people driven.

## Overview of the Draft National CD Policy

The Draft National Community Development Policy was presented by Professor Ade Olomola, on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Health. In his presentation, he pointed out that the process of developing and formulating a National Community Development Policy has taken about five years. He noted that the document was made up of eight chapters thus:

- Chapter One: Introduction and Background
- Chapter Two: Mission Statement
- Chapter Three: Community Development Programmes
- Chapter Four: Implementation Framework
- Chapter Five: Institutional Framework

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The Welcome Address by the Minister was followed by the delivery of the Conference Keynote Address by the eminent scholar, Professor Akin Mabogunje. In his paper, Professor Mabogunje stated that repositioning community development has become imperative in the light of the abuse the concept had been subjected to by bureaucrats in the country over the past several years especially under military rule when bureaucrats established and funded artificial communities.

The paper posits that true community development is about democracy and thus it entails creating the necessary environment for free contest of competing ideas and interests. For consensus building to take place, four critical conditions must be met. These are availability of information about issues; promotion of consultation; the consensus-building process itself should foster participation; and finally it must engender accountability.



According to Professor Mabogunje, the concept of community development evolved in Africa in the context of the labour migrations of the colonial era. The concept was further articulated by the practice of mutual aid among migrants from the same areas. It created a safety net against the vicissitudes of urban life. Community development associations

emerged in response to the burning desire to replicate in their villages their encounter with urban development in colonial society.

The binding thread which weaves the community together in their commitment to a common development objective can be located in the concept of social capital. Social capital can be understood as characteristics of social organisation such as networks of civic engagements norms and trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit. Social capital is a moral imperative that is driven by trust. It helps to promote good government and economic advancement. The elaborate networks of civic engagement which social capital creates allows many communities to provide themselves with infrastructure, maintain a balanced sense of participatory consultations and democratic commitment.

Despite the success of community development efforts, no serious attempt have been made to translate this experience into erecting an enduring and development oriented local government system. The only attempt was the failed post civil war development administration in the East Central State. This attempt failed due to over-bureaucratisation and lack of emphasis on participatory democracy.

The keynote speaker asserted that the ethos of community development is crucial for the successful achievement of the MDGs. This ethos is central to increasing access to assets, capital, skills and services towards enhancing the quality of life of Nigerians all over the country. It is in this sense that we can understand how the establishment of community banks and the poverty reduction effort of the Ijebu-Ode community help to illustrate the notion of how community development ethos can be critical for promoting substantial national development. The oil boom led to the weakening of the desire by community development associations to engage in development activities. It also led to the emergence of state bureaucrats who are averse to accountability and transparency in local governance. This in turn provokes the

social alienation, which has come to express the general Nigerian attitude to local governance. However, despite this social alienation, communities have been able to sustain the major ethos of community development. This shows that attaining the MDGs is possible. The challenge in contemporary Nigeria is how to integrate this ethos of community development into the operations of our local governments. It is only in this way that the nation would not only meet the MDGs at the local level, but also transform itself into a truly democratic society with a strong and self-reliant market economy.

## Opening Address by the President

In his Opening Address, the President and Commander-in-Chief of Nigerian Armed Forces, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, who was represented by the Minister for Women Affairs and Social Development, Hajiya Maryam Inna Ciroma, noted that the National Conference on Community Development, the first in the country's history was being held at a critical period in Nigeria's developmental history. The theme of the conference, Repositioning

Community Development as an Effective Tool for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), he said, was especially apt as it was expected to explore linkages and expected to explore linkages and modalities for effectively tapping into the vast potential wealth of social capital, the existing social structures, networks and resources at the community level to meet the country's MDGs targets.

President Obasanjo was of the view that the key element of the MDGs is pro-poor development which focuses on the formulation and implementation of pro-poor social policies, increasing local access by the poor and marginalized to assets, capital, skills and services to improve their lives and their capacity to contribute to the overall development of their communities.

While his administration had, during the last seven years plus, put a number of structures and machineries in motion to effectively reinforce community empowerment and authority, it was his expectation that the



conference would come up with practical strategies towards enlisting community support for the sustained fight against corruption and the enthronement of a culture of democratic good governance, accountability, transparency, and due process in all facets of our national life.

The President enjoined participants at the conference to examine ways of mobilizing and sensitizing community members through concerted programmes to mitigate and eliminate such vices as thuggery, waste, and disrespect for public property, pipeline vandalism, electoral malpractices, and misappropriation of public funds.

Thereafter, the President declared the first National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria open.
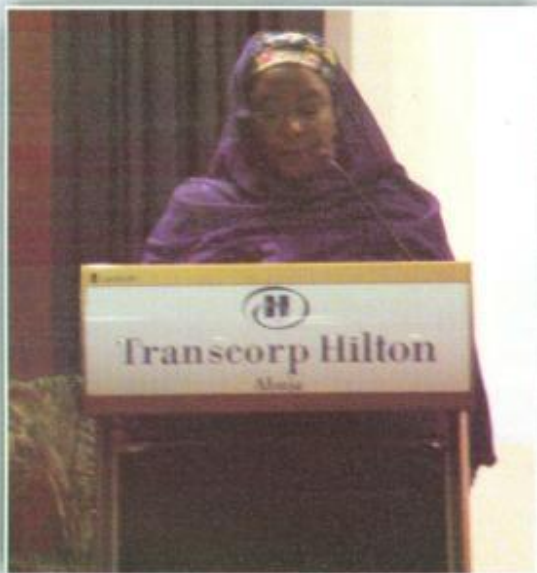
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DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION
ACTIVITIES FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Community Life Project

# PART II

## SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

## SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

DAY 1: MONDAY, 29 JANUARY 2007

1. THEME 1: THE COMMUNITY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS,
   MALARIA AND TUBERCULOSIS

1.1 PLENARY SESSION ONE

*Chairperson:* Dr. Shehu Sule, Director, DCDPA, FMOH.

*Speakers:*
1. Professor Layi Erinosho: "The Community in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria"
2. Milestones in Community Empowerment for Development: Lessons Learned from the Oriade Initiative by Dr. Lola Dare
   Lead Discussant: Dr Kole Shettima, Nigeria Country Director, MacArthur Foundation

**Summary of Presentations**
**Paper 1: The Community in the Fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by Professor Layi Erinosho**

Professor Erinosho, in his paper, pointed out that HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria are endemic and major public health problems in Nigeria with grave consequences at family, community and societal levels. They are diseases that work in synergy with poverty and tackling them requires macro and micro sociological interventions with broad stakeholder involvement, beginning from individuals, kin and communities.

The central thesis advanced by the paper is that poverty stricken, ignorant and non-literate communities cannot fight these diseases in isolation without being empowered and offered support by strategic partners. They require economic empowerment, education, both formal education and health education and capacity building. Stakeholders that could provide support to the communities include the government which is central to disease control

working in partnership with civil society organizations, organized private sector, faith-based organizations, traditional healers etc.

In getting communities to fight these diseases, the focus should be on health education. In health education at community level, there is a need to go through the following sequential steps: appropriate identification of entry points, which vary from one community to another; design of appropriate health educational materials; capacity building of the community members; conduct of the health education activities and setting in place modalities for monitoring and evaluation.

The speaker pointed out that in Nigeria, there is a vibrant CSO and FBO community that can be harnessed to support the implementation of various community-based health programs. Because of the paucity of resources available to government, these organizations need to be mobilized; their capacities built and they be given financial support so as to partner with government in the fight against these diseases.



Dr Lola Dare, Dr. Shehu Sule, OFR, Prof. Layi Erinosho and Dr. Kole Shetimma at the Plenary Session

A case report of a successful mental health education intervention in Igbo Ora, a community in Oyo State, Nigeria, 25 years ago was presented. There were weekly health education interactions in the community for one year around the issue of mental health and a clinic was built in the community for service provision. This led to increased awareness, increased utilization of mental health services and decreased stigmatization.

### Paper 2: Milestones in Community Empowerment for Development: Lessons Learned from the Oriade Initiative by Dr. Lola Dare

The paper began with a definition of an empowered community as 'one in which individuals and organizations have access to the information and other inputs to apply their skills and resources in collective efforts to effectively and sustainably respond to health priorities they have identified in the wider context of their local development.' This would result in access to information, resources and skills. Through such engagement, individuals and organizations within an empowered community are able to establish partnerships of mutual benefit with others, address conflicts, strengthen leadership; and gain increased influence and control over the determinants of health and development in their community and support, initiate and sustain efforts for health and development.

Pathways to community empowerment were identified as euphoria, realization, consolidation and engagement. In the stage of euphoria, the project is viewed as that of development partners resulting in high expectation of donors, donor dependence, low partnerships, which is limited to working with the influential vocal persons in the community and community organization officially driven. The project during this phase is based on limited data and the main focus is on infrastructural development. The stage of realization is the blame stage; there is increasing recognition of partnerships and frustration by both the communities and development partners. There is likely to be clash of expectations between the community members and development partners and



Participants at the Opening Plenary Session

responding to communities' demands can create dependence if care is not taken.

In the stage of consolidation, the 'us phase', expectations relate to local capacity, participation expands to the vulnerable and socially excluded, and community organization increases with clear roles and responsibilities between the community and officials. There is increased responsiveness of officials to the local leadership, partnership is extended to the marginalized segments of the community; and there is transformational/collaborative leadership style between partners. There is also a shift from development hardware to software and complete shift of leadership style from autocracy to democracy. The stage of engagement is the 'we phase'; the capacity for evidence-based planning and negotiation of needs is increased and community members begin to contribute to the project.

Decision-making process and power shift from government officials and project staff to the community members as one moves across the different empowerment stages. The skills required, learning objectives and activity blocks also vary across the different stages. It was noted that indicators for empowerment are difficult to assess, however there is a need to develop some measurable indicators. Some of these may include:

- % of the community members participating at meetings
- % of population who are regular members of the financial contribution scheme
- % increase in community levels of skills set and learning activities
- Indicators that link empowerment to intended outcome measures e.g. research, health improvement, poverty reduction

Various examples were presented from the Oriade Initiative project to demonstrate the issues associated with the different stages of empowerment and the indicators used to monitor progress. The major lessons and challenges from the project are:

1. That empowerment takes time;

2. The concept of empowerment needs to be customized to different communities;
3. Whilst empowerment can be measured, there are no standardized indicators;
4. Communities can identify their needs and empowered communities are not dependent;
5. Empowerment promotes mutual accountability and transparency and people that have money without social capital cannot be empowered.

The presentations were followed by contributions from the audience.

The **Lead Discussant, Dr Kole Shettima**, noted the absence of a presentation at the first plenary session of the conference on the MDGs, given the focus of the conference and, the apparent lack of knowledge and understanding, especially at community level on MDGs. There is thus a need to operationalise the MDGs at community level, as there appears to be no evidence of interventions aimed at achieving the MDGs at the community level currently. Without community involvement, it is unlikely that the targets of the MDGs would be achieved. Secondly, the concept of a community is still being contested as even in the same community, there is variability in aspirations, power and composition. Finally, civic engagement, community organizing, community empowerment are seeds of democracy that should be cultivated at the local level, which may cascade to influence democracy at the national level.

**Contributions from Participants**
**Dr. Anyebe, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria,** questioned the ignorance of Nigerians on MDG as he posited that NEEDS represent the domestication of MDGs in the country.

**Lanre Ajale,** a participant from **Coker-Aguda CDA** wondered what the motive of government programmes are, whether they are really for the people or they are for the self interest of the executors and how community development could be managed from Abuja without evolution of a system of decentralization. He bemoaned

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the lack of access to information by those that need the information for action at community level.

**Dr. Mike Egboh, Country Director of Pathfinder International, Nigeria,** aligned himself with the challenge thrown by Dr. Lola Dare on how community development could be managed from Abuja. He noted that if the MDGs are to be achieved, there is a need to evolve strategies of working through the tiers of government to get to the community. In response to Prof Erinosho's paper on the need for educating the community, he noted the widespread coverage of the National Orientation Agency across all the LGAs in the country and the need to involve them in the conference and post-conference community education activities.

**Chukwu Jonathan of Shell Petroleum Development Company** identified Town Unions as veritable channels for community development as they are well positioned to know the problems of their communities. He opined that they should represent the last tier of government and be given budgetary allocations for their community development activities.

**Mr. Patrick from Katsina Ala, Benue State LEEMP** adjudged LEEMP as a very successful strategy for rapidly scaling up community development as 70% of the budget is channelled directly to the communities for the execution of the projects they have identified. He recommended the adoption of this strategy by government as a way of accelerating the attainment of the MDGs.

**Lady Onah, University of Nigeria, Enugu,** noted that the generality of the Nigerian populace at community level are ignorant of the MDGs. Her question was simple: "How do we educate them?"

**Evangelist Edith Esther, CDO, Sapele,** questioned the recommendation of Prof Erinosho for the use traditional healers as one of the groups to support community interventions in the fight against these diseases at community level.

In response to the contributions from the participants, **Dr. Kole Shettima** noted that

NEEDS is a pro-poor strategy and not a domestication of MDGs.

The Chairman in his concluding remarks recommended that because Malaria, TB and AIDS are major public health concerns, communities need to be mobilized and empowered educationally, economically and their capacities built to be able to fight them. MDGs should be translated into the various local languages for wide dissemination to the populace. Also, all stakeholders should be mobilized work in partnership with the communities, adopting a community participation approach that leads to engagement and real empowerment.

**1.2 Simultaneous Sessions**

**Session 1.2.1**

**Chairperson: Dr. Jerome Mafeni (ENHANSE – USAID).**

**Speakers:**
1. Role of Community Based Organisations in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control in Nigeria: The *South East PSRHH Experience* by Patience Ekeoba, AAIN, and Chinyere Udonsi, AAIN

2. Community Participation in Prevention, Care, Support and Treatment of HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria: Case Study of Three Communities in Lagos State, by Funmi Doherty (Mrs.) and Mary Ukpong (Mrs.), SWAAN, Lagos.

3. Role Of CBOs, FBOs in HIV Prevention and Control in Nigeria: The Anglican Experience, by Dr. A.O Sekoni

4. The Application of the Peer Education Plus Model in HIV Prevention Among the Youth: Some Evidence from Achida Town, Sokoto State, Nigeria, by Muhammad Nura Ibrahim (*AMNIM*), Society for Family Health

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## Summary of Presentations

**Paper 1: Role of Community Based Organisations in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control in Nigeria: The South East *PSRHH Experience* by Patience Ekeoba (AAIN) and Chinyere Udonsi (AAIN)**

The paper opened with a quote from Nelson Mandela on the importance of speaking to people in the language they understand: "*If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart*". This is to emphasis the relevance of communication in the language one understands. The *Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Reduction (PSRHH) Programme* (also called *'Make We Talk'*) is a nation-wide, seven-year programme funded by the British Department for International Development (DFID) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in support of Nigerian Government's response to HIV/AIDS and

Reproductive Health. It is being implemented in partnership by ActionAid International Nigeria, Society for Family Health and other civil society organizations in the six geo-political zones of Nigeria including the South East region where case study took place. The south east region is recognized for its characteristic peace, industry and business. But the business is serving as an albatross due to the difficulty of getting time from business people.

The objectives of PSRHH are:
- Increased knowledge, and attitudes conducive to safer sexual and reproductive health practices among poor and vulnerable groups in Nigeria;
- Increased access (availability & affordability) to safer sex products and services among poor and vulnerable populations in Nigeria;
- Improved enabling environment for PSRHH BC programme.

Replicable, scalable and cost effective models are successfully used for targeted community-based interventions. This is done with a goal of improving sexual and reproductive health

among poor and vulnerable populations in Nigeria, using the strategy of PEP. It also includes Peer Education, Community participation, Right Based Approach to Programming, partnership with Civil Society - CBOs, CSOs, etc, and Gender Mainstreaming. The major target population are Male and Female Out-of-School Youth, Road Transport Workers, Uniformed Service Men and Female Sex Workers.

The Programme process is in three phases:
1. Entry Phase
2. Intensive Phase
3. Exit and Phase Down

During the entry phase, eighteen sites were selected from Enugu, Ebonyi, Abia, Anambra and Imo states. For the purpose of the case study the following groups were selected:
- Transport Workers Unions
- Hairdressers Association
- Mechanic Union
- Spare Parts Dealers Association,
- Hotel Owners Association,
- Vulcanizer Association,
- Bread Sellers Association
- Religious Groups
- Traditional Groups

The groups were selected based on the fact that they are rooted and resident within the community they serve, hence they understand the community history, seasons, time line, realities, trends, leadership structure and profile. They are mostly formed for the interest of the members and the group and seek to protect the cohesion of the group; hence they have strong leadership structure that maintains strong influence both on the membership and the communities where they operate. This was done with and with the support of the CBOs who mapping, understanding the culture of the people, the identification of the influential persons in the areas. The CBOs also help with advocacy, creating linkages and on going supervision and training.

During the intensive phase, the CBOs help in the selection of Peer Educators (PEs), training them and helping in the organization of sessions with the peers. At the time of exit the

CBOs help with the formation and strengthening of new CBOs, support local fund raising and participated in the evaluation of outcomes.

The engagement with CBOs had the following outcome among others:
- Easy access to community people, target groups, influencers and their leaders
- Early acceptability of the programme by community people
- Successful implementation of PSRHH resulting in:
  - Increase in HIV/AIDS knowledge among all the target groups and the CBO groups;
  - Increase in the number of youth abstaining and delaying sexual debut;
  - Increase in condom use;
  - Increase in persons seeking VCCT;
  - Increase of people taking advantage of family planning methods and those seeking STI treatment;
  - Female sex workers adopted the policy of 'no condom no sex';
  - Reduction in teenage pregnancy.

The implementation process confronted a number of challenges including:
- Some community members had high expectation of financial reward from the programme;
- Constant change in programme schedule due to different business schedule of CBO members-as time is serious business;
- Inadequate infrastructure in rural areas to respond to emerging demand - e.g. VCCT Centres and others.

The following lessons were learnt:
1. CBOs are useful partners in community development as they play significant part in community mobilization, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Their local experience and resources and their being rooted in the community put them at a vantage position to support programmes.
2. CBOs are viable partners for community and resource mobilization for HIV/AIDS prevention and control

3. CBOs are useful in the translation/stepping down of HIV/AIDS messages
4. CBOs are relevant in deploying and creating behaviour change communication and maintenance
5. CBOs have potential for programme sustainability and expansion if their capacities are built
6. CBOs coalition serve as platform for experience sharing and learning as well as the development of viable action plan for community transformation
7. CBOs can be functional agents for the promotion and distribution of HIV/AIDS prevention and control products.

The authors made the following recommendations:
- CBOs are relevant in deploying and creating behaviour change communication and maintenance
- CBOs have potential for programme sustainability and expansion if their capacities are built
- CBOs coalition serve as platform for experience sharing and learning as well as the development of viable action plan for community transformation
- CBOs can be functional agents for the promotion and distribution of HIV/AIDS prevention and control products.

They concluded that any intervention seeking to achieve its programme goals and objectives as well as sustain its HIV/AIDS intervention beyond the intervention years must actively involve CBOs as partners especially as these organisations understand the language and culture of the people.

**Paper 2: Community Participation in Prevention, Care, Support and Treatment of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria: Case Study of Three Communities in Lagos State by Funmi Doherty (Mrs.) and Mary Ukpong (Mrs.), SWAAN, Lagos**

In giving the background to their paper, the authors stated that **SWAAN** is involved in education and empowerment of literate and poorly educated women and men through the

dissemination of information on HIV/AIDS/STIs, reproductive health, parent-child communication and sexuality issues among others. Over the years SWAAN has been involved in Community Home Based Care, Care for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, Voluntary Counselling and Testing Services, HIV/AIDS Education and Capacity Building for Health Care Providers and Counsellors.

The aim of the project was to achieve the following:
- Create HIV/AIDS awareness among community members;
- Inform, educate and communicate with community members, basic facts about HIV/AIDS;
- Discourage rumour, myths and correct misconceptions on causes, mode of transmission and treatment of HIV/AIDS;
- Explain the effects of HIV/AIDS especially on women and men in prevention and control activities as well as sensitise them on safe sexual practices and behavioural change;
- Help community members relate with care for and support people living with HIV/AIDS.

Interventions were carried out in three local government areas of Lagos State, viz: Ajeromi Ifelodun, Mainland and Ojo. The activities carried out include the following:
1. Community Home Based Care (CHBC)
2. Advocacy and Sensitization seminar
3. Formation of Support group
4. Capacity Building training
5. Conducting Home visits
6. Referral and linkages
7. Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Activities
8. Voluntary Counselling and Testing services (VCT)

The activities carried out achieved the following:
- The home visits availed people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) the opportunity to be served with one or more support services. Also support group meetings encouraged PLWHAs to cope psychologically because

they meet with people of the same sero-status and this enables them to share their experiences;
- PLWHAs have the opportunity of getting married to people of the same status thereby, giving them hope. Also, PLWHAs give birth to negative children through the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) programme;
- The support group meetings served as an avenue to discover the orphans of the PLWHAs and they were also given psychosocial support;
- Stigma and discrimination have reduced as more members joined the support group and share experiences;
- Some illnesses were managed by volunteer outreach workers in PLWHA homes; this led to a reduction of in-patients at the hospitals because of the provision of basic palliative care in their homes;
- PABAs were educated on some basic nursing care and how to prevent infections amongst them. This also enabled the PLWHAs to receive love and care from their family members.
- Availability of Tuberculosis (TB) treatment, ART and other support services (PMTCT, treatment of opportunistic infections (OIs) for HIV positive people) motivated PLWHAs to seek help;
- Willing PLWHAs serve as members of SWAAN.

The programme confronted a number of constraints and challenges including:
1. Delay in release of fund for activities by donors leading to unnecessary delay of some activities (e.g. sensitisation seminars in the communities).
2. Fixing dates for project activities in the communities such as sensitization seminars was challenging because the dates were selected by the stakeholders/decision makers from the community and this delayed the implementation of the project;
3. Support group members move from one organization to another for economic support;
4. At the inception of project activities, PLWHA gave fake addresses and names,

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so it was very difficult for outreach workers to trace them for home visits;

5. Failure to adhere to drug regimes by PLWHAs resulting in many of them coming down with Opportunistic Infections;

6. Family crisis do occur in cases of discordant couples. Some even find it difficult to encourage their partners to come for HIV counselling and testing;

7. Clients complained about financial problems to meet their personal needs and to purchase drugs for Opportunistic Infections.

8. After counselling and testing, there are usually difficulties in status disclosure by clients to partners/family members due to fear of stigma, discrimination and rejection.

The speakers then highlighted specific achievements through the efforts of SWAAN, namely:

1. Many orphans and vulnerable children are able to access other support services like free comprehensive test (laboratory evaluation, baseline biochemistry and haematology test) and ARV through SWAAN referral network; and

2. In March 2006, seven orphans and vulnerable children received scholarship award from International Inner Wheel District 911 through the intervention of SWAAN.

The authors concluded by making the following recommendations:

- The PABAs and the families of PLWHA should be given a formal training on the benefits which accrue to intervention programs (i.e. VCT, CHBC, OVC and BCC programs). This will make mobilization easy and possible;

- There is need to expand counselling and care and support services to other communities that were not served in the past project;

- The Federal Government and AIDS Control Agencies should implement sustainability plans;

- ART and other support services (PMTCT, treatment of OIs, etc.) should be made available at a minimal cost. This will also reduce stigma and discrimination in the communities.

**Paper 3: Role of CBOs, FBOs in HIV Prevention and Control in Nigeria: The Anglican Experience by Dr. A.O Sekoni, MBChB, MPH.**

The author started by pointing out that the Anglican Church is one of largest churches in Nigeria with substantial followership in southwest and southeast Nigeria. Unlike in the Catholic Church, Anglican priests are allowed to marry. The Church has a programme for the prevention and mitigation of the HIV/AIDS.

The principal objective of the Church's AIDS control programme is to demystify HIV/AIDS and promote extension of the Christian law *"love thy neighbour as thyself"* to PLWHAs. The specific objectives are to:

1. Improve the level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS among members of the Anglican communion;

2. Normalize HIV/AIDS;

3. Adapt/integrate HIV/AIDS education into activities and existing curriculum of the college of theology;

4. Strengthen referral linkages for HIV/AIDS services among church members.

The intervention and strategy adopted involved the following:

1. Advocacy visits to the Bishop and other important persons in the church;

2. Establishment of a project advisory committee (PAC) and archdeaconry advisory committee (AAC) together with the church members;

3. Trainings for the priests on how to educate their members about HIV/AIDs using the newly established parish lifeline curriculum. Priests were also trained on referral systems.

4. Establishment of HIV/AIDS drama group among the youths;

5. Pulpit sermons on HIV/AIDS issues;

6. Joint parish seminars on HIV/AIDS;

7. Provision of VCT services and the personnel that can handle them.

The intervention had the following outcomes:

- Commitment of the Bishop and other

gatekeepers
- Inauguration of AAC
- Trained priests and laity working within the parishes on HIV/AIDS related issues
- Establishment of Diocesan VCT services
- Demystification of HIV/AIDS
- Removal of stigma and discrimination against PLWHA within the church
- Formation of PLWHA support group

In its conclusion, the paper advocated for the following as in order to move forward:
- Expand programs and services to carter for more people even outside the parish;
- Decentralization of Anglican response to the branches;
- Economic empowerment programs for PLWHA & PABA by the government and CBOs and the spirited individuals;
- Community based care of PLWHA & PABA;
- Establishment of DOT clinic to take care of persons that have developed Tuberculosis.

**Paper 4: The Application of the Peer Education plus Model in HIV Prevention among the Youth: Some Evidence from Achida Town, Sokoto State, Nigeria, by Muhammad Nura Ibrahim (AMNIM), Society for Family Health**

The author stated the objectives of the programme being reported in the presentation as including the following:
1. to initiate interventions on HIV prevention among single out of school youth in Achida town;
2. To engage male youth to increase their knowledge about HIV;
3. To create an enabling environment for healthy sexual behaviour through sustained community effort;
4. To use PEP, an evidence-based and theory driven approach to HIV prevention developed and tested in Nigeria by SFH and Actionaid.

The paper thereafter described how the intervention was carried out and the strategy deployed. According to the author, the PEP

model was used as the strategy to achieve the objectives of the programme. The intervention, following the PEP model, was divided into three parts: Community entry, intervention proper and phase out or exit. The two months of the entry phase was used to identify the site, pay advocacy visits, gather basic relevant information about the site and select the PEs. The strategy and process of meeting was also determined in collaboration with the CBO that will assist in the implementation. Baseline survey was done after training those selected.

In the intensive phase the twenty males and eight females selected as peer educators were trained. Half of these served as full time while the remaining half served as back up in case of drop outs. Each PE selected a minimum of ten and maximum of twenty peers to train. They meet twice in a month. Youth influencers were involved in the evaluation of the intensive phase after every two months. At the exit phase, the number of meetings were reduced from twice to once monthly before finally handing over to the CBOs.

The author thereafter highlighted the results of the programme:
- The results of focus group discussions show significant changes in attitudes behaviour, stigma;
- Self esteem became enhanced, particularly among the young women who now demand HIV testing before marriage;
- There was significant increase in knowledge on HIV/AIDS modes of transmission and prevention;
- Through the intervention a divorced female youth presented herself for HIV test; she tested positive and has since been referred for ARV.
- More female youths (mostly divorcees and out of school) were reached who ordinarily were hard to reach.
- The youth formed a community drama troupe to address cultural and societal impediments on HIV/AIDS. The troupe performed on market days and in other venues and the Project complemented their efforts and provided the group with costumes and drums. The youths also

formed listeners club to listen to HIV programmes on media. They also discuss the issues raised. To assist them, the Project provided transistor radios for members of the club. The groups now meet weekly to discuss issues raised on HIV/AIDS on the local media.

The presentation closed with a highlight of what worked and what did not work. What worked and the reasons for success include

- Use of peer education model as the Project selected peer educators who are either influencers or role models to conduct sessions with their peers. This resulted in high diffusion of knowledge and behaviour among the target youths in the area (social diffusion theory).
- Advocacy to the community leaders (gate keepers) to gain an enabling environment to work with the youths otherwise reaching the targets would be difficult or not feasible.

- Also the use of picture codes in the model to generate discussions and simplify learning; otherwise the sessions would be boring for some peers and can lead to attrition.
- The formation of CBO worked.

On the other hand, the use of record book by the peer educators did not work. This is because they were all out of school and many had to seek assistance for filling them. Nevertheless, the author recommended the replication of the PEP model as it had been shown to be an effective tool in HIV prevention.



Dr. Mike Egboh (Session Chair) with Dr. Clara Ladi Ejembi (Rapporteur)

Report of National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria (NCCD 2007) January 28 - February 2, 2007

## Session 1.2.2
**Chairperson: Dr. Mike Egboh, Country Director, Pathfinder International**

### Speakers:
1. The Role of Police Community-based Organizations (CBO) in the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS by Cornel Ekeh, Society for Family Health

2. The Role of Women in Preventing and Mitigating the Impact of HIV/AIDS: A case study of August Meeting by Mrs. Ngozi Chukwu, African Family Values Foundation

### Summary of Presentations
**Paper 1: The Role of Police Community-based Organizations (CBO) in the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS by Cornel Ekeh, Society for Family Health**

The speaker began by pointing out that the *Promoting Sexual & Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Reduction* (PSRHH) programme (a.k.a. *Make We Talk*) is a 7-year Community-level Behaviour Change (BC) strategy/project of the implementing partners as part of the Nigerian Government's response to HIV/AIDS under the HIV/AIDS Emergency Action Plan (HEAP) coordinated by NACA, and funded by DFID and USAID. The project, which targets the police as a distinct community was carried out in the south eastern part of the country. The main objectives of the project were to mobilize, select and train change agents amongst the uniformed services men (Police) who will in turn form peer groups to share reproductive health information including HIV/AIDS. The strategy used was Peer Education Plus (PEP), which involved training of Peer Educators on general life building skills such as team building, negotiation, goal setting and communication. It also addresses general knowledge issues on HIV/AIDS, family planning and other reproductive health concerns.

The project interventions were:
- Selection and training of 6 Peer Educators (PEs) and their engagement in monthly two days' training /review meeting using the Peer Education Plus (PEP) model approach;

- Facilitation of the formation of peer groups in the division;
- Facilitation of the formation police community based organization in the division;
- Facilitation of the provision of enabling environment for the conduct of peer group sessions/other activities through the conduct of meetings with influencers (work with influencers [WWIs]) to provide social support and reinforce the peer education messages.

IPC to reach other police men and address other issues, drama and role plays, increasing access to products, board games (snakes and ladder) and communication materials were also carried out in the project.

The project outcomes were identified as including:
- Decreased multiple sexual partners
- Increased communication on high risk sexual behaviour
- Increased consistent and correct use of condoms

- Increased desire to be tested for HIV
- Increased ability to conduct personal HIV risk and decrease in the rates of sexually transmitted infections among the police men.

In addition, a police CBO (Health Alert Group) for sustaining behaviour change and promoting ownership was formed.

The project had to change the timing of the meeting of the peer educators to coincide with the timing of official routine meetings so as to overcome the challenge of shift duties. Working with influencers was also found to be quite effective. Frequent transfer of the police disrupted the plan to ensure the formation of peer educator groups with at least a membership of 20 people per group. Shift duty was also found to be very disruptive of activities.

Involvement of the police throughout the planning stages, harmonization of posting of the paramilitary to accommodate peer

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education and recognition of the police as viable fighters in the AIDS campaign were recommended.

## Paper 2: The Role of Women in Preventing and Mitigating the Impact of HIV/AIDS: A case study of August Meeting by Mrs. Ngozi Chukwu, African Family Values Foundation

The paper began by highlighting the trend, magnitude and consequences of HIV infection and AIDS in Nigeria. The selection and use of a women's group by the project, which was supported by ActionAid in Nigeria, was informed by the belief and conviction that targeting women in projects leads to greater impact. Consequently, the project selected the Ogbolafor August Women Meeting as the target beneficiaries of the project. The selection of the Ogbolafor group was informed by the earlier success the group recorded in fighting dehumanizing widowhood rites that included asking widows to drink water used to wash the corpse of their husbands, shaving their hairs, etc.

The project sought to disseminate information and increase awareness on HIV and AIDS using the family value-based approach and to build the capacity of the women. The specific interventions included conduct of advocacy visits to women leaders, workshops and focus group discussions. The project was able to evince the commitment of the women to change, build constituency, promote the participation of PLWA and change the perception of the women regarding AIDS. Financial constraints led to the scaling down of the numbers of days allocated per workshop; time was another constraint identified.

Since the pilot project demonstrated the appropriateness of use of August meetings for HIV/AIDS interventions, the presenter recommends the scaling up of involvement of August groups in HIV/AIDS interventions. Other recommendations proffered included the need for identification and use existing groups by SACA, formation of CBOs in rural areas, training of CBO officers and provision of support to NGOs.

## Discussion

A **Participant from HDI, Lagos** opined that the first presenter did not do his home work before embarking on the project, otherwise he would have known about the high mobility of policemen and see how he could factor this into the project. Transfer of peer educators should not be seen by the project as a constraint; these transferred officers could serve as ambassador that can expand the coverage of the project if properly harnessed.

**Participant from FCA FADAMA, Oyo,** asked how the project with the police was assessed and how the conclusion was reached that rates of STI, high risk sexual behaviour, etc, were reduced. Policemen are very sexually active and their activities in one state have been associated with the rise in the prevalence of HIV.

**Prince Manasseh, a community-based financial consultant,** wondered what the second presenter was doing to address the gross gender disparity in the east where females outnumber males and what they are doing to restrict the movement of their men. He noted the August Meeting is a formidable group but there was a lack of clarity in the presentation on the strategy used in the project to fight AIDS.

A **community Leader from Ebonyi State** recommended the involvement of SACA and NACA in the police project.

**Maryam Garba, Fahimta, Bauchi,** indicated a lack of clarity with the PEP model used in the project with the police and how the community development approach was used in the two projects. She wondered whether any baseline study was done to justify the conclusions on changes in sexual behaviour as contained in the presentation of the project with the police. She also wanted to know whether the there was an increase in the number of policemen going for VCCT or it was only desire and intentions.

**The Chairman, Licensed Vulcanizers in partnership with CLP, Lagos,** wanted to

know the relationship between the CBO and the police.

**Lady Nkechi Onah University of Nigeria, Enugu,** questioned the validity of the presentation on the August Meeting project. She said she comes from Ogbolafor and the widowhood practices enumerated by the author are alien to that area. In addition, the presentation failed to make any link between widowhood practices and HIV/AIDS and that the August Meeting this year in Ogbolafor had a different issue commanding its attention not HIV.

In response Mr. Ekeh, with inputs from one of his colleagues, indicated that both quantitative and qualitative data were collected before the commencement of interventions providing the baseline data for evaluating the performance of the project as contained in the presentation. The authors said referral cards are given to the police wishing to go for VCCT by the CBO created; this provides the evidence relating to uptake of HIV test. The CBO formed has been linked to SACA for sustainability.

In conclusion, **the Chairman** observed the following major gaps in the two presentations: The lack of information on the baseline study in the presentation on the police project, the failure of the project to study and appreciate the environment which it intends to work and the loss of opportunity of using the transferred police men trained as peer educators as change agents in their new posting locations. He requested the presenter and his colleague to review the presentation and include vital information which was presented in response to questions before final submission of the presentation. He also recommended the need to be innovative when conducting projects with police, for example instead of giving them N20 kola, people should give them condoms.

On the second presentation, the **Chairman** observed that there was no mention of what August Meeting is and why August. Also, there was no indication of the linkage, if at all, between widowhood practices and HIV/AIDS **Session 1.2.3**

**Chairperson**: Dr Babatunde Ahonsi (Ford Foundation).
**Speakers:**

1. James Unegbu, Ngozi Iwere, and Constance Eze, Community Life Project (CLP), Lagos: Promoting Community-Based HIV/AIDS Education Voluntary Counselling and Testing through Social Networks.

2. Chief Mrs Bisi Ogunleye, COWAN, Akure: Fighting HIV/AIDS in our community: A Study by Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN).

3. Eric Shu (ActionAid International, South-South Nigeria): Strengthening Sustainable Community-based response To HIV/AIDS in the Niger Delta The Change Agent Role Of Community Based Organisations In HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care And Support (Lessons from the PSRHH Programme).

**Summary of Presentations**
**Paper 1:** Promoting Community-Based HIV/AIDS Education Voluntary Counselling and Testing through Social Networks, by James Unegbu, Ngozi Iwere, and Constance Eze, Community Life Project (CLP), Lagos
After the Chairperson, Dr Ahonsi, had opened the session with an introduction of the theme for the session and the topics to be presented, the first paper was presented by the authors. The paper explored two major interventions carried out by Community Life Project through social networks, as part of its campaign against the spread of HIV/AIDS and care for the victims. The paper discussed how Community-based education on HIV/AIDS Voluntary Counselling and Testing could be promoted via social networks.

The presenters gave a brief background of CLP as a community-based, non-governmental and not for profit organization based in Lagos Nigeria. CLP works in three communities, namely: Isolo, Mushin and Oshodi. The project was set up in 1992 to engage community organizations and local institutions on an agenda to promote sexual and reproductive

**CHIEF BISI OGUNLEYE of COWAN**

health as well as overall well-being. CLP is one of the civil society organizations that pioneered HIV/AIDS preventive education among the general population, reaching men, women and young persons simultaneously. The project uses multiple channels of communication, existing social structures and networks in the community such as schools, churches, mosques, tutorial centres, youth clubs, football clubs and community organizations to disseminate information, knowledge and skills at the community level.

The goals of CLP intervention are to: reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS with the community, improve the quality of life and enhance the well being of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). Its activities among others are to:

- Create awareness among 5, 000 adults and young people on the importance of Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT);
- Provide VCT services to 500 adults and young persons;
- Empower 30 care givers (PLWHA, Volunteers and project staff) with the requisite knowledge and skills to provide care and support to 20 PLWHAs; and,
- Provide Home Base Care for PLWHA and their families.

The first intervention took place in Oshodi/Isolo/Mushin communities of Lagos Metropolis. This intervention was aimed at achieving of positive prevention, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). This programme which spanned a period of nine months, June 2005-February 2006, was funded by the World Bank through the Lagos state Government.

The second intervention was the Ugbodu Youth Christmas Festival for HIV Prevention. This took place on Christmas Day, December 25, 2006 at Ugbodu village in Delta State. The intervention was a fall-out of an earlier HIV/AIDS session for a church society in Lagos. Following the successful educational session with the church society, the president of the group invited CLP to work with him and the village youth leaders on the Christmas Day Intervention. The aim was to increase awareness of the benefits of voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) among an estimated 500 youths and some elders of the village and encourage HIV testing and early detection.

In carrying out these interventions CLP relied on existing social structures and its (i.e., the organisation's) network of partners. Both interventions recorded the following outcome:

1. In only 8 months the World Bank HAF-supported intervention was able to exceed its set targets by reaching 6040 members of the community with VCT awareness as against the planned target of 5000;
2. Provision of HIV testing to 722 persons as against the planned 500;
3. Provision of care and support to 40 PLWHAs as against the planned target of 20, and
4. The Ugbodu village intervention was able to reach 820 youths of the village through the Christmas Carnival, in place of the estimated 500.

At the end of both interventions, it became obvious that:

1. Community-based VCT services make it convenient for people to screen and test for HIV;

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2. The use of do-it-yourself HIV test kits and the possibility of access to treatment motivate and inspire trust and confidence and encourages uptake of HIV testing; and,
3. The social capital paradigm, using individual and existing social networks, represent a very efficient and effective channel for reaching people at the grassroots/community level with development programmes.

With regard to the implications for the larger fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, some of the **key issues** highlighted by the two interventions include:

• In order to fight against AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis multiple channels of communication, existing social structures and networks in the community such as schools, churches, mosques, tutorial centres, youth clubs, football clubs and community organizations must be employed to disseminate information, knowledge and skills at the community level.
• There must be planning meetings with the community leaders to discuss issues such as the mode of presentation, issues of focus, expected number of participants, roles and responsibilities of people involved.
• There must be massive awareness campaign in community through the social networks such as churches, mosques, schools, hotels and students' hostels.
• There must be distribution of relevant educational and enlightenment materials such as pamphlets and posters to the reached participants.

The authors concluded with the following **recommendations:**
• VCT should be taken to the people where they are as a strategy for increasing uptake of HIV testing.
• Best practices of community-based counselling and testing like the CLP intervention should be well documented, disseminated and scaled-up.

**Paper 2: Fighting HIV/AIDS in our community: A Study by Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN) by Chief**

**Mrs Bisi Ogunleye, COWAN, Akure.**
The paper discusses the activities of COWAN as an NGO that was established in Ondo State in 1982 with 225 members but has now membership of up to 300,000 in 32 States of Nigeria. COWAN is a rural-based women group that is conscious of the crisis in society arising from inequity between male and female gender; it is ready to intervene in order to mitigate the effects on women and children who are the most vulnerable.

The presenter, Chief Mrs Bisi Ogunleye, argued that the fight against HIV/AIDS can only be effective if women are empowered economically, politically and physically. COWAN links women's health problems to their material conditions. Thus, women should be economically empowered in order for them to be physically and politically empowered, as money is a key factor in empowerment

According to Chief (Mrs.) Ogunleye, COWAN trains women to sensitise and educate rural women of their rights and place in securing a better community. It preaches return to African traditional values of abstinence, caring, family life and hospitality in order to care for the victims of HIV/AIDS. COWAN suggests the establishment of Youth Friendly Clinics (YFC) in the rural areas to foster communication between victims and counsellors of HIV/AIDS.

Among the **key issues** raised by the presentation are:
• There is a need to promote the active involvement of all community members particularly those who are traditionally excluded in information gathering and problem diagnosis, planning, and decision-making regarding outcomes that affect community development. This includes traditional women who have traditional knowledge of healing, etc. In essence, the community peoples' knowledge should be tapped.
• Women who play active role in child training should be empowered economically, politically and physically (health) so that they can train their children adequately.
• Community girls should be taught to live a descent life so that they can contribute

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meaningfully to the development of the community especially in the prevention of HIV/AIDS.
- Youths must be generally taught on sexuality and its implication for the prevention of spread, and care for HIV/AIDS patients in the community.
- Family life system of the past that emphasizes caring and togetherness should be put into practice as one of the strategies to care for the PLWHA.
- There should be establishment of Youth Friendly Clinics to cater for the youths.
- Dialogue, wisdom and peaceful persuasion should be employed by women to become politically empowered especially in areas where they are currently being hindered.

The speaker concluded by suggesting that:
- No matter how insurmountable a problem is in working with the community in order to fight against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis, it is always possible to achieve success with determination and peaceful persuasion.
- Drug addicts should be identified with, educated, and spoken to in the language that they understand.
- In order to ensure sustainability, programme planners should Go to the people; Talk with the people; Plan with the people; and Execute the plan with the people. In that way, if you are no longer with them the programme continues with them.

**Paper 3: Strengthening Sustainable Community-based response to HIV/ AIDS in the Niger Delta: The Change Agent Role Of Community Based Organisations in HIV/AIDS evention, Care And Support (Lessons from the PSRHH Programme), by Eric Shu, ActionAid International, South-South Nigeria.**

The highlights of this paper include:
- The HIV/AIDS situation in the Niger Delta
- Prevalence & Driving Forces
- The PSRHH intervention in the Niger Delta
- The Emergence & Change Agent Role of CBOs
- Capacity Issues in the development of CBOs

- Challenges in Working with CBOs
- Motivation & Sustainability of CBOs
- Key Success Stories in Working with CBOs
- Recommendations and Ways forward.

The author stated that PSRHH is an innovative programme that combines social marketing with communication for social change strategies. The objective is to improve sexual and reproductive health among poor and vulnerable populations in Nigeria. The intervention targeted critical groups in the communities. The strategy was based on the peer education

plus (PEP) model and it was phased into three segments. After the selection of CBOs within the community they were made to carry out interventions through community mobilization, sensitisation, counselling, etc. The CBOs are charged to play key roles in community development beyond HIV/AIDS. This is really an assiduous task for the CBOs due to their inability to meet the community's needs as they exhibit insufficient capacity and poor documentation method. This weakness was mitigated through mentoring and trainings. The programme is usually successful in areas where there were already interventions.

The **key issues** raised by the paper include:
- Behavioural Factors, Economic Factors, Socio-cultural factors, Conflicts & Emergencies, Geographical factors and Political Factors, were identified as the driving forces of HIV/AIDS in the Niger Delta region.
- Combination of the benefits of products (HIV/AIDS & other Reproductive Health Commodities) *social marketing* with *communication for social change strategies* are essential for the implementation of integrated community-based sexual/reproductive health projects that respond to the country's increasing poverty levels and HIV/AIDS infection.
- The following play invaluable roles in fighting against HIV/AIDS in the community: Advocacy & Community Mobilization, Peer Education, Working With influencers, Product Merchandising

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(HIV/AIDS, FP, MCH, etc), Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation, Referrals, etc.
- The following interventions are tools for fighting against HIV/AIDS:
  - Carrying out Advocacy & community mobilization (creating enabling environment).
  - Creating awareness on HIV/AIDS & other health-related issues.
  - Providing Counselling & Referrals for Care and Support Services.
  - FP and STI treatment.
  - Reducing HIV/AIDS-related stigma in the community.
  - Increasing access to services & ensuring accessibility of HIV/AIDS, FP & MCH Commodities in communities through non-traditional outlets.
  - Reinforcing positive (non-risky) behaviour (e.g. NCNS Policy Among FSWs).
  - Scaling up interventions even beyond initial target communities (e.g. FSWs CBO reaching out to other brothels in Benin).

The author concluded by **recommending** that:
- Development practitioners should explore non-monetary ways of motivating and providing incentives to community-based participants towards sustainable development programme engagements.
- Development practitioners should evolve CBO models that best meet the needs of their programmes vis-à-vis community needs.

**Discussion**

The presentations were followed by various responses from the floor. The first intervention was that of **Alhaji Dosumu**, Chairman, Community Development Committee, Lagos State, who suggested that there should not be any language barrier when communicating with members of the rural communities in order to foster proper understanding of the education, awareness and sensitisation programmes. He stressed further that people should be spoken to in the language they understand. He concluded that identifying with people with problems such as drug addicts, in order to help them, goes a long way in solving their problems.

**Mrs. Agnes Ofugara**, Community Development Officer (CDO), Sapele asked, "If one belongs to a community that does not allow women in a decision-making place, what can such person do if she has something good for the benefit of community to be introduced to them?" **Chief (Mrs) Ogunleye** replied that through peaceful persuasion, dialogue and wisdom such a woman could have her ways. She stressed that one of the solutions to women's marginalization in decision-making is education. This, she said would enhance chance of being economically and politically empowered.

In his own contribution, **Mr. Shola** from Chevron, highlighted the need for strategic partnership with the media in fighting HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. He drew attention to the fact that in the three presentations, media role was untouched as a significant factor and partner in fighting against HIV/AIDS.

**Mr Yahaya Yakubu** said that activities of ActionAid should extend to the Niger Delta areas, as they are not there at the moment. This call was supported by **Dr T. A. a dentist**, who opined similarly that Action Aid International should extend its awareness campaigns to other parts of the South East of Nigeria. He added that working with the media in diverse forms would help to combat HIV/AIDS and that the use of condom helps in HIV/AIDS prevention especially in rural areas. He added that the community-centred/community-driven approach is effective in fighting HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

In his closing remarks, the Chairman of the session, **Dr Ahonsi**, stated that, "No matter how insurmountable a problem is, in working with the community in order to fight against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis; you can always achieve success with determination and peaceful persuasion.

DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION
ACTIVITIES FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

COMMUNITY LIFE PROJECT

Report of National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria (NCCD 2007) January 28 - February 2, 2007

DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION
ACTIVITIES FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Community Life Project

# PART III

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT...

## DAY 2: TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 2007

### 2. THEME 2: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY REDUCTION AND PRO-POOR SERVICES

2.1 PLENARY SESSION TWO, 8.30 am – 10.00 am

| | |
|---|---|
| Chairperson: | Professor Foluso Okunmadewa, The World Bank, Abuja |
| Speaker: | Mr. Hans Binswanger, The World Bank, Washington DC |
| Title of Paper: | Community Development, Poverty Reduction, and Service Delivery: Sixty Years of Struggling for Success |
| Lead Discussant: | Prof. Biodun Falusi, University of Ibadan |

## Summary of Presentation

In a well received paper, Mr. Binswanger reviewed the major political and intellectual struggles over the past 60 years for mainstreaming community development approaches into poverty reduction strategies and service delivery. His paper argued on the contestations as to: how to help and/or empower poor communities and people; who is

outside facilitators help communities in diagnosis, design, and execution - communities manage funds, contracts and engage in project implementation.

In addition, three approaches to Local Development were outlined. They are the *Local Government Approaches*, which encompasses territorial, political and



L-R, Plenary Speaker, Mr. Hans Binswanger, Prof. Foluso Okunmadewa (Chair) and Prof. Abiodun Falusi

in charge of planning and execution; who controls the money; and which projects are more productive: cooperatives, communities, or individual projects?

The paper highlighted the three different approaches to community development. These are *Community Consultation Model*, in which Government or other service providers consult communities and beneficiaries, adapt their services and deliver them through their own staff; *Community Facilitation Model*, where Government or other facilitators work with communities, but take a strong management approach, including selection of projects, technology, construction, and financial management - communities co-finance projects and run and maintain them; and *Community Empowerment model*, in which

administrative institutions, with policy and operational autonomy allocated through devolution; *De-concentrated Sectoral Approaches* with emphasis on service delivery through functionally specialized local organizations with operational autonomy through de-concentration or delegation; and *Community Support Approaches*, which entails the empowerment of and/or resource transfer to community organisations promoting collective action for self-provision and co-production of infrastructure and services.

The author presented the synthesis of Local and Community-driven development (LCDD), which defined Integrated local development

(ILD) as a co-production between communities, local governments, government sectors, and private organisations that does coordination at the local level; where roles would need proper definition; where actors are fully empowered to execute their roles, where money and authority are devolved to local governments and communities; and where local governments and communities are held accountable for use of funds and for achieving development objectives. The author provided examples of Linked Approaches as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi of India and the Comilla Model in Bangladesh, both of which underscored holistic development that has to do with the mobilisation of the strengths and resources of the poor. International donors (World Bank, IFAD, bilateral donors, etc.) funded hundreds of programmes, which emanated from such approaches. Brazil was also reported to have recorded success stories along this line.

The paper outlined the processes involved in community-driven development (CDD), which reiterated the involvement of the community in the diagnosis of problems, conceptualisation, planning, execution and monitoring of projects through training and counterpart funding. However, the presenter was quick to submit that the implementation of the synthesis (LCDD) had been a huge challenge as there were lack of trust in communities and local governments; exaggerated planning expectations; and many political battles about control over money and other resources.

The author then reflected on the weaknesses and future challenges for LCDD. These include the fact that communities, local governments place priority on infrastructure, followed by productive projects and rarely on social projects; a CDD approach to delivery of welfare services and social safety nets does not yet exist; and only fragments of responsibility are devolved, such as selection of beneficiaries and requirements to contribute labour and food.

## Discussion

The discussion opened with the remarks of the Lead Discussant, **Professor Falusi**, whose remarks buttressed the position of the presenter. He said that in Nigeria and Africa generally, attempts had been made to promote economic growth. He added that the growth needed was a broad based one, as indicated by the paper. He then observed that regardless of the extent of growth recorded over the years in the Nigerian context, the objectives of reducing poverty had not been achieved. He affirmed that all the approaches highlighted in the paper had been domesticated in Nigeria in the forms of agricultural development projects, integrated rural development, Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) and other development programmes but which were, of course, generally top-down in approach. In recent times, however, a change in paradigm became inevitable, when participatory approaches were employed to enable community people take charge of their own affairs in the development process. It was therefore necessary for the people to take their destiny into their own hands. To meet the MDGs, Nigeria had developed its own variant of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). The crucial factor for the country, he said, was the extent to which it had been able to translate the CDD approach into the PRSP – the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) being an example.

It was observed that the successes in CDD recorded in Brazil were similar to what obtained in Nigeria, particularly so, in the FADAMA project, that has to do with service delivery, education, socio-economic development, etc. It was stressed that CDD provides a big potential for Nigeria people. Cooperation amongst stakeholders was, therefore, seen as important. The wishes of the people would need to be translated into actions and CD needs in order to promote sustainability. His concluding observation was that there had been some problems such as poor procurement procedure, poor record keeping, etc.

The comments of the Lead Discussant were followed by **reactions from participants** that included **questions and comments**. A participant, **Mr. Lawal (from Oyo State)** commented that Nigeria stands to benefit if the CDD approach was embraced. The Local Economic Empowerment and Environmental Management Programme (LEEMP) in Oyo State adopted this approach where communities enjoying the LEEMP embarked on infrastructural projects such as borehole, schools, Police stations, and roads, which are largely funded by the communities with little contribution from the government. He identified two problems, which might affect the success of CDD as, firstly, the Nigerian factor, where people might read political meaning to these programmes and secondly, religious sentiment could play a major role in impeding the process. To this, the **Lead Discussant** responded that the issue was a passing phase that would soon fade away. He also buttressed the fact the community people would soon have what it takes to query government spending on CD.

**L. Ezurike** (Imo) wanted to know how the deliberations could be taken to politicians and legislators and political parties who are critical elements in the process of CD.

**Mr. Nim** (Owerri) wanted to know what checks were put in place to ensure that legislators and other politicians were genuinely committed to the course of community development.

In response, the **Presenter** opined that community people needed be given a voice to ask questions bordering on government expenditures on community development; this buttressed the need for transparency and accountability.

**Engineer Odoma** (Imo State) suggested that



A participant making his comments at the plenary session.

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a substantial percentage of the budget be allocated at the local government level with an accompanying legal framework to regulate spending on development CDD programmes.

**Dr. Edna** of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, sought clarification as to whether agricultural extension delivery system was not relevant in the execution of CDD just as its role could not be ascertained in the recent times. In response, the **Lead Discussant** affirmed that the role of extension was very crucial but that there was need for the agency to be equipped with the necessary infrastructure to enable it reach every nook and cranny of the country.

**Dr. Adenike Adeyemi** (Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja) asked what measures were put in place to ensure that the vulnerable (the young, women, physically challenged) were not marginalised, to which the **Discussant** responded that pro-poor programmes were *sine qua non* in ensuring proper social inclusion.

At this stage, the Plenary Session Chairman, **Professor Foluso Okunmadewa**, intervened to highlight a number of issues:

*   If communities are empowered and the sectoral Ministries and Local Governments are not involved in the process of CDD, there would be no sustainability of CD programmes;
*   More power and resources need be devolved to the Local Government;
*   The little successes achieved have largely been dependent on community capacity development; and
*   With the exception of the FADAMA project, all the CD models have actually not been productive in Nigeria.

Following further discussions, the following issues emerged as part of the key challenges and recommendations on the way forward:

*   The Integrated Area Development Approach (1969-1995) was bedevilled by some problems just as income growth was often not achieved because of lack of technology and the fact that few viable institutions were left behind.

*   There has been a problem of scaling up, which leads to lack of coordination of development programmes.
*   The CDD process is evolutionary, which, therefore, takes a long time to achieve; hence, patience is required.
*   Emphasis needs be placed on the key role of Local Governments in Community-driven Development (CDD).
*   A broad-based, socially-inclusive and pro-poor approach is vital for the success of CDD programmes.
*   There is need for debate on the concept of poverty amongst the very poor.
*   There is need for provision of safety net in the process of executing CDD programmes.
*   Amplification of projects/development endeavours that work is *sine qua non* to create room for encouragement and replication.
*   There is need for transparency and accountability on the part of stakeholders in the process of community development.
*   More power and resources need be deployed to the Local Government; and Community-sectoral Ministries-Local Government partnership is needed for sustainability of CDD programmes;
*   Community capacity building is necessary to enable the people take charge of their development programmes;
*   In moving forward, there is need to apply the approaches presented in the paper in the Nigerian context.

## 2.2. Simultaneous Sessions

### Session 2.2.1

**Chairperson: Dr. Chris Ubani**
**Speakers:**

1.  Ekanem Inyang (Applicants Welfare and National Development Centre): Strategic Approaches to Community Development: Applied Initiatives in Akwa Ibom State
2.  Chief (Mrs.) Bisi Ogunleye: Micro Finance and Community Participation: The COWAN Approach

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3. M.K. Othman, A. Ibrahim, B. Dayot and J. Joel: The Inventory Credit Scheme (ICS) as a Contribution to Finance Community Development: A Pilot Study with Selected Farmers Organisations

## Summary of Presentations
## Paper 1: Strategic Approaches to Community Development: Applied Initiatives in Akwa Ibom State by Ekanem Inyang

Mr. Inyang began his presentation by stating that the objective of the Applicants Welfare and National Development Centre of which he is the Executive Chairman, is focused on sustainable human development and capacity building of the less privileged in the society. He said Strategic Approaches to Community Development involves the application of various types of approaches, tools and techniques to analyse community issues and employing pragmatic objectives to find common solutions to the issues identified. The four approaches adopted in community development are: (1) REFLECT Development Approach (2) Workshop Management Approach (3) Competitive Sensitisation Approach and (4) Participatory Public Forum Approach.

REFLECT is an acronym for *Regenerated Freirean Literacy Through Empowering Community Techniques*. It is basically a participatory approach in which the community is empowered through training. They are trained to be able to identify their needs, analyse them, develop a course of action, and how to demand their rights from duty bearers. This approach was used in training 18 community facilitators in Akwa Ibom State from 19 April to 3 May 2006 who were to further step down the training to their communities in the state. Many communities were able to identify their needs, analyse and develop action plans with this engagement. Some communities have already succeeded in engaging duty bearers to support their needs.

The Workshop Management Approach was adopted in view of the lack of modern techniques of farming in rural communities in Akwa Ibom State. Applicants Welfare in collaboration with Economic Network of Civil

Societies organised a one month workshop series, sensitising the grassroots communities to participate in agricultural development as a strategy to eradicate poverty in the state. The objective was to transform their old farming techniques into modern and efficient ones, train them to manage their natural agricultural resources and how to access government financial support and grants from development agencies. A workshop was held from 16 February to 15 March 2006 first as training of trainers, and later in all the ten federal constituencies of the state. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the relevant state ministry, parastatals and the legislature. Thereafter participants applied the new management strategies of agricultural development acquired from the workshop.

The objective of the **Competitive Sensitisation Approach** is to educate the rural dwellers on the Millennium Development Goals, to enable them participate in implementing these concepts at the local level and to sensitise other grassroots women on the consequences of the MGDs, to the communities and to be watch dogs in ensuring its application to their benefits. Applicants Welfare and National Development Centre organised a sensitisation workshop on the Millennium Development Goals for over 40 grassroots women selected from various poor communities in Akwa Ibom State. Also drama, poem and Essay competitions were organised as a way to graphically illustrate the practical imperatives of MDGs. The result of these efforts is expressed in the establishment of Akwa Ibom Rural Women Development Network, which organised her first conference of Akwa Ibom Rural Women in 2006. This women-based organisation was used as a platform for articulating issues of concern to women and, above all, to ensure the implementation of the MDGs in the rural areas by government and its agencies.

The objective of the **Participatory Public Forum Approach** is to assist unemployed youths that are skilled to be able to access information and available job opportunities. Also not all skilled youths have access to development opportunity and self-reliance for sustainable livelihood. An annual public forum is

organised for applicants in Akwa Ibom State and Nationally. This is a forum for various stakeholders to discuss and proffer solutions to the problem of unemployment. The forum brings employers of labour and the unemployed together to interact and make information available on job placements and how to access available jobs.

The various approaches succeeded for a number of reasons. Participants were encouraged to identify problems, suggest solutions and made to take action that at the end produced tangible results. The bottom-up approach in formed responses to community development issues which in turn enhanced the level of participation in decision-making. The use of the local language as a means of conveying information elicited interest and commitment. The lessons are that the rural areas are beset by a number of problems that are systemic, cultural and psychological. To overcome the backward nature of the rural areas, it was suggested that government, the private sector, NGOs and development agencies, should partner with the communities to achieve the MDGs.

### Paper 2: Micro Finance and Community Participation: The COWAN Approach by Chief (Mrs.) Bisi Ogunleye

In her opening remarks, Chief (Mrs.) Ogunleye stated that women decided to adopt micro-finance in order to improve their material conditions. She firmly opined that if we continue to do things the old way then the country is likely to have problems achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Mrs. Ogunleye stated that, contrary to widely held assumptions, there is need for popular participation if we are to succeed in our micro finance.

The National Chairperson of the Country Women Association of Nigeria was of the strong opinion that the methodology of the World Bank in tackling poverty is problematic. The World Bank emphasises capacity building, believing that our women lack capacity. It is the World Bank that lacks capacity not the people. The World Bank believes that this lack of capacity is the same as poverty. The real poverty is with the experts. To popular applause, Mrs. Ogunleye then asked: "Why must we depend on a foreign

Mrs. Ogunleye pointed out that microfinance already existed in our traditional society and is identified by various names including *Osusu, Adache, Esusu* or *Ajo*. Through this approach, the people have been empowering themselves. The beauty of this approach is that the community owns it and treasures it. This is the background to the COWAN project to reach the people through its microfinance programme.

The essence of COWAN'S model of micro-finance is *trust*. This is because trust is fundamental to the success of any community-based development initiative. The COWAN approach is a reflection of the ability of our people to save and share. The culture of sharing is what has kept our people going; saving culture has always been a part of the people before foreign culture invaded our society. Unfortunately, in modern times and under the influence of a foreign culture, people do not or find it difficult to share.

Mrs. Ogunleye urged participants to believe in the people's ability which is expressed as the African traditional disbursing banking. As soon as COWAN enters a community, it engages the people in discussion. The organisation adopts a mobilisation model based on "ten trusting ten". The people are mobilised to put their savings together.

The financiers of COWAN are its members. COWAN does not depend on external or donor supported funds; it depends on the strength of its members. The association gives money to the poorest of the poor and grants group loans, and it does not experience any default. According to Mrs. Ogunleye, this is because the members encourage entrepreneurship and women are encouraged to invest. Indeed, COWAN sometimes offer investment advise. COWAN is also involved in food banking. The success of COWAN's approach could be gauged in the phenomenal rise in its membership: from 225 members to 300,000 spread across 32 states of the Federation. The association also has a fairly stable account base.

**Paper 3: The Inventory Credit Scheme (ICS) as a Contribution to Finance Community Development: A Pilot Study with Selected Farmers Organisations by M.K. Othman, A. Ibrahim, B. Dayot and J. Joel**

The presentation opened with an affirmation that, in Nigeria about 90% of those engaged in farming are small scale farmers, while only about 10% are involved in large scale farming. Small scale farmers are constrained by finance, technology, market limitation and threat to food security. The solutions to the problems lie in improved extension services, provision of infrastructures, introducing modern technologies, access to market and credit facilities etc.

organisation. Those engaged in inventory credit are farmer organisations/producers; financial institutions and the warehouse. For inventory credit to be successful certain conditions must be met, among which are, the existence of a dynamic producer organisation, handling and storage of farm produce, training on the use of the good warehouse with storage facilities; availability of creditors, training on the use of the loan for income generation etc.

The objective of the Agricultural Development in Nigeria Project is to build the capacity of producers' organisations through empowerment so they can take part in rural development issues among other stakeholders. The project covers 5 sites in 4



Suwaiba Yakubu Jibrin explaining some key issues during her paper presentation. By her side is Dr. Adenike Adeyemi of the Federal Ministry of Health

Inventory Credit (IC) is a micro-finance technology that allows farmers to access credit. It involves collection and storage of farm produce at harvest as collateral for loan. It also guarantees financial institutions of the loan repayment. It builds the farmers capacity through the formation of producers

states. The states are Kano, Katsina, Jigawa and Bauchi. In addressing the problems identified, Inventory Credit (IC) technology was employed and four farmers' organisations were selected for the pilot study, two each from Katsina and Kano States. These are:

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1. Katsina State (Easkar LGA):
   - Tafoki village – Unguwar Usman Dogo Multipurpose Cooperative.
   - Davidawa – Hayin Maska Multipurpose cooperative.

2. Kano State (Gaya LGA)
   - Kalahadi – Kalhadi Daugsayi farmers cooperative.
   - Dngoli – Dangoli farmers cooperative.

ADENI Project became the financial institution and allocated N1 million for distribution, maximum of N250000 to each farmers' organisation. Furthermore capacity building for the farmers' organisation was carried out. The next stage was the selection of warehouse, delegation of responsibilities, guarantee price and monitoring and facilitation. All the members repaid all the loans as signed in the agreement.

The implication of the above is that small scale farmers can utilise and repay their loans, promptly, without diverting it. Another consequence of the IC was that prices of commodities increased. Inventory credit scheme can serve as a tool for economic empowerment and social development of a community. It can be seen as poverty reduction strategy, reduces wastages and increase food security etc. The success of IC requires the participation of financial institutions, while transparent and accountable leaders should be made to lead the process.

**Session 2.2.2**

**Chairperson: Dr. Nike Adeyemi**

**Speaker:**
   1. **Suwaiba Yakubu Jibrin, (Partnership against Poverty, ActionAid International): Community participation in rural development**
*Note: Three papers were listed for presentation during this simultaneous session. However, only one was presented because the other two*



Lady Nkechi Onah making a comment during the interactive session

*presenters did not show up. The other papers scheduled for presentation were* Community participation in orphan care and widows support in Apo and Krmo communities of Abuja, Nigeria *by Ngozi Ebere Okoye of Life Transformation Organisation, Abuja),* and Economic empowerment for sustained poverty among female youths in Ndeaboh community in Aniri LGA of Enugu State, Nigeria *by Obioma C. Nwurgu and Gladys Ugochukwu of the Global Health Awareness Research Foundation.*

## Summary of Presentation

The paper reported counter-part funded projects in two communities. The author began by defining the concept of participation as the mental and emotional involvement of people in a situation that encourages them to contribute to group goals and share responsibilities, and through motivation, people realise their resources of initiative/creativity towards the objective of the society. It applies to a contingency relationship within the participants and between them and their environment. It was in this context that the paper highlighted the activities of ActionAid International on partnership against poverty (PAP)

The author thereafter identified the problem and objective of the paper. The community had prioritised children's education but for seven years, the people's effort to contact Government officials had failed. Incredibly, *nobody in the community was educated!* They perceived that they had been highly marginalised. The objectives of ActionAid, therefore, were to free the target people from poverty; create an open, transparent and accountable enabling environment; and create an environment where all citizens are empowered in order to enjoy their rights to a fair, just and equitable share of the country's wealth, resources and power.

The **methodology** employed was the Rights Based Approach (RBA) through participatory methodologies such as REFLECT and STEPPING STONES. Tools that empower people to take decision by identifying problem and issues affecting them, participating in the analyses of situation and drawing out action plans to solve them were used.

The author thereafter described the **intervention of ActionAid** in the identified communities. *Fade* community is located 35 kilometres from Lafiya town and has a population of 3780 based on the 1991 Census. It is one of the old communities in which ActionAid started the long term PAP in 2002. An appraisal conducted by ActionAid revealed that the community was highly marginalised and poverty stricken. The programme, which was funded through the child sponsorship mechanism, had empowered the community members in various categories to become assertive in their demand for basic rights.

ActionAid, in partnership with Project Agape (a Non-Governmental Organisation) based in *Lafiya,* had worked in the community through the following process:

- Mobilisation of the community;
- Formation of community development committee;
- Conduct of REFLECT training;
- Formation of REFLECT circles;
- Training of both facilitators and CDCs on Gender, RBA, Project Monitoring and Evaluation, as well as project and financial management; and
- Establishment of Adult literacy classes.

The paper indicated that REFLECT cycles formed the key areas where decisions for development programmes are taken. It was observed that children's education (school building) was the first priority identified by community people. Members were reported to have contributed land, water and labour to build a school structure. A block of four classrooms with an adjoining head teacher's office and a store was then built.

The **lessons learnt** included the following:
- The powerful will always dominate the process of CD;
- The need for synergy and networking among stakeholders is crucial;
- Participation depends on the level of motivation and evident benefits;
- Volunteerism is vital;
- Leadership development is inevitable; and
- Linking physical projects to people's livelihood schemes is desirable.

## Discussion

Despite the fact that two of the papers scheduled for discussion were not presented, some participants still raised issues pertaining to the subjects of those papers. The most critical pertained to those bordering on widowhood, orphanage and the youth. **Lady Nkechi Onah** highlighted issues on orphanage and widowhood during which she emphasised on interventions, advocacy and re-orientation of people about their views on widow hood.

**Mina Victor-Akin** pointed out that widowhood is not a stigma and was emphatic that, "Regardless of what experience a widow faces, the advice is that women need to be educated..."

**Ezerike, I.** (LEEMP, Owerri) wanted clarifications on the sustainability of the projects already put place after ActionAid had opted out. The presenter responded that every phase of the programme implementation is participatory to the extent that the community people see projects as theirs and they are willing to manage it.

**Mr. Alfa Mohammed** wanted to know the role of Local Government Chairmen in the CD projects, while **Baba Gana** (from Yobe) enquired about the roles of the extension agents in driving CD programmes. **James Opanachi** (Niger-Delta) emphasised on the need to give the youth a voice in the process of implementing CD programmes.

In her response, the presenter re-echoed the comatose nature of the government development agents in the process of CD.

From the discussion of the paper, the following issues were identified in understanding the way forward:

- There must be equity in power sharing and decision making;
- There must be space for the less privileged and the most vulnerable (such as women and children);
- Socio-economic, environmental and political factors are crucial in the process of participation in CD;
- Participatory **needs assessment** is always desirable;

- Government paid community development agencies such as the Agricultural Development Programmes (ADPs) and extension agents within the various Ministries, Local Government and development parastatals need to live up to their billing in the process;
- Men have the sole responsibility of preparing their would-be widows to prevent them from becoming vulnerable to socio-economic ills in the long run;
- Entrepreneurship development and education amongst women is crucial to empowerment
- The youth need be given a voice in the process of community development; and
- Agricultural Extension work needs be re-invigorated in the process of community development.

## Session 2.2.3

**Chairperson: Dr. Shehu Sule, OFR, mni, Director, Director of CDPA, FMOH**

### Speakers:

1. **Dr. M.B.W. Dogo-Muhammad, National Coordinator, National Health Insurance Scheme: Targeting the vicious cycle of ill-health and poverty through community Social Health Insurance scheme**
2. **Anthony A. Adeoye, Consultant AAC: Poverty maps as a tool to target development and monitoring of the MDGs.**

*Note: While three papers were scheduled for presentation at this session, only two were presented. The authors of the third paper, COLINSA: Reducing Poverty and Dependency in UNICEF Field Office C, Kaduna, S.S. Hassan et. al. did not show up.*

### Summary of Presentations

**Paper 1: Targeting the vicious cycle of ill-health and poverty through community Social Health Insurance scheme by Dr. M.B.W. Dogo-Muhammad, National Coordinator, National Health Insurance Scheme.**

The paper began by defining poverty as an economic condition characterized by the

inability of an individual to cater for him/her self in terms of basic survival needs (food, clothing, housing, healthcare etc) due to insufficient income. It is documented that over 65% of Nigerians are living below the poverty line of less than a dollar per day. With Human Poverty Index (HPI) value of 38.8% (HDR 1997), Nigeria ranks as 75th among 103 developing nations. Nigeria ranks 12th poorest country in the world (UNDP 2000) and ranked 146th out of 174 in the HDI (Human Development Index). 50% of the population has no access to clean water and only 40% have access to electricity. With this level of poverty it was noted that it is not likely one can be healthy because poverty deprives one of good housing, food, education and health care that negatively affect health. Health on the other hand, affects ones poverty level by not allowing one to work and earn money for his basic necessities of life.

Several years after attempting to commence the health insurance scheme in Nigeria, it finally started at least in the formal sector few years back. The essence is to take care of those that cannot afford their medical bills. This is more with those in the informal sector who do not have a regular source of income; hence, the need to make a special arrangement for people in this group.

The mandate of NHIS is to provide care to all categories of Nigerian citizens irrespective of whether they work in the formal or informal, private or public sectors and irrespective of the level of their income. The informal sector comprises about 95% of population and are made up of persons that have :
- irregular (non)employment + irregular income
- low literacy, unorganized, "silent majority"
- largely rural, sub-urban and some urban
It also comprises the children, physically challenged, the aged, prison inmates, unemployed, retirees and others.

The Community Based Social Health Insurance is a non-profit Health Insurance Scheme for a cohesive group of households or individuals registered as Mutual Health Associations (MHAs), formed on the basis of the ethics of mutual aid and the collective pooling of health risks, in which members are responsible for its management. The strategies NHIS used in

attaining this are:
- Piloting Rural Community and Urban Self Employed Social Health Insurance Programmes
- Conducting an understudy of existing Informal Sector Programmes in the country
- Using lessons learnt to develop a Framework for Community Social health Insurance Programmes

The roles of stakeholders in the community social health insurance scheme are:
- Overall regulatory role as well as the development and periodic review of strategies to promote the Rural Community Social Health Insurance Programmes (RCSHIPs) in the country;
- Setting standards for Health Care Providers (HCPs);
- Accrediting Health Care Providers and approving Mutual Health Associations (MHAs) for participation in the Scheme;
- Determining contribution rates and payment to service providers and Provides capacity building support to collaborating partners;
- Collaborating with key stakeholders such as Governments and development partners to generate technical and financial support towards addressing the subsidy gap;
- Developing IEC strategies aimed at generating awareness on Informal Sector schemes;
- Developing Standard Treatment Protocol for use by Health Care Providers (HCPs);
- Conducting high level advocacy to generate support from policy makers at the different levels of government; and
- Contributing to the development and management of the Equity Fund.

The **challenges** encountered include:
1. Addressing the needs of Informal Sector particularly Rural Community and Semi-urban dwellers;
2. Little practical experience implementing Community Based Social Health Insurance.
3. Funding the subsidy gap

In conclusion, the speaker suggested the following as the way forward:

- The government should pay for the aged, children, pensioners and physically and/or mentally challenged persons;
- The general level of education and specific capacity of community based social insurance should be improved upon as a step towards empowering the community to initiate and own programmes; and,
- There should be an intensive awareness campaign about the government programmes.

### Paper 2: Poverty Maps as a Tool to Target Development and Monitoring of the MDGs, by Anthony A. Adeoye, Consultant AAC.

The presentation started by recognising the fact that we are living in an ever changing world in terms of population size and structure, urbanization, globalization, economic development, environment, human conflicts, knowledge, advancing scientific and technology. Thus, there has to be a dynamic policy to go with it and that is why the UN policies has been changing over the years as follows:

- Environmental Deterioration: Stockholm in 1972
- Brundtland Report Sustainable Development in 1987
- 1989 ILO (No.169): Indigenous/Minority groups recognition
- 1992 Agenda 21 Rio Earth Summit
- 1995 Beijing Women's Rights
- 1996 Bogor
- 1999 Bathurst
- 2000 Potsderm
- 2000 Millennium Development Goals
- 2001 Bonn
- 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable development

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals of the United Nations to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges. The first of these goals is to "Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger"! Nearly half of Africa's population of 300 million people live below the international poverty line of $1 a day. While global poverty rates are falling, millions more have sunk deep into poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. The picture is similar if not worse for all the other items in the MDGs.

The Millennium Development Goals require the availability of data. The data must be up-to-date, reliable and usable indicating the quality, quantity and spatial location of the various resources and the size and spatial distribution of the population who depend on these resources. Other requirements are:

- The availability of tools to support the transformation of data into understandable information for decision-makers, from national and international levels to grassroots levels;
- Rethinking of both inter-organisational and intra-organisational relations in order to improve the use of common data and the reuse of data.

The Fundamental Datasets identified as important for monitoring the MDGs are:
1. Agriculture, including food security
2. Transportation (road, rail, water and air) and communication
3. Environmental management
4. Disaster management
5. Spatial planning
6. Health
7. Safety and security
8. Water resource management and supply
9. Energy
10. Tourism
11. Housing
12. Land administration

The overall objective of the study being reported was to collate baseline information on all the communities in Nigeria. The scope of the study is large and involves the following areas:

- Describing in general terms the population size and structure, settlement patterns, ethnic structure and cultural groups of the community.
- Concisely describing the economic environment of the community including but not limited to the economic activities, the social and cultural factors that influence economic development and sharing of common property resources, sources of livelihood of families and their income per capita.
- Placing specific attention on gender and vulnerable group considerations (men, women, youth, disabled, minorities etc).

- Assessing and determining soil and water quality and changes in parameter.
- Identifying and describing structure of formal and informal institutions and their current roles in community development activities.
- Evaluating agricultural production systems, cropping pattern, yields, household income and constraints to agricultural productivity.
- Identifying and assessing status of resources (land, forest, water, etc) within the community and identify indicators that could be used to monitor changes.
- Examining the educational and health status of households in the community.
- Evaluating the availability and quality/condition of available infrastructural facilities in the community (marketplace, roads, schools, medical facilities, water supply, electricity, etc).
- Identifying and describing environmental problems of concern to the community and mitigation measures being adopted.

The role of poverty mapping in the study is to offer visual representation of poverty prone areas for the planners and administrators. Among the data collected, those that were readily collected from existing sources include:

- Education
- Health
- INEC
- Natural Resources
- Infrastructure/Social Services
- Occupational Characteristics
- Potential for Consumption of telephone/Communication Services
- Geospatial Data, Information, and Related Products
- Status Maps
- National Topographic Database
- Topographic Maps
- Map Lists

The Role of GIS in Poverty Mapping and Development Potentials were identified as:
- The integration of GIS in poverty mappings has significantly improved in the last ten years benefiting from in-puts from other disciplines like econometrics and geography.
- Regionomics is a particular example of how

GIS has significantly improved solutions to poverty incidences. Regionomics specializes in applying GIS to develop location-efficient solutions for infrastructure development, urban service delivery, poverty alleviation, and the analysis of census data.
- Regionomics has developed advanced techniques for analyzing Census data in both developed and developing countries. In the developed world context, Regionomics applies spatial econometric methods to analyze urban systems. In the developing country context, Regionomics is developing GIS-based solutions for poverty mapping and urban governance.
- Poverty mapping facilitates implementing location-efficient poverty alleviation policies and can further assist in understanding the factors that entrench poverty through trend analysis.

The challenges include:
- The lack of up-to-date maps has been one of the major hindrances to the actualization of MDGs in Africa and has constituted a barrier to the implementation of sustainable development programmes.
- There is an increasing gap between developed and developing countries in their capacities to collect and disseminate the Fundamental Geospatial Data Sets needed for the actualization of the MDGs.
- Many African countries do not have the foundational geo-information needed to create the spatial layers of information for use in the implementation and monitoring of national and regional development strategies, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and achieving the MDGs.
- Most African countries have not been systematically mapped and the maps that exist do not cover the entire surface area of these countries. Consequently, the Surveying and Mapping data that were produced in the past have become outdated and largely obsolete.
- GIS data have often not been easily accessible; this has negatively impacted on decision-making and development planning in Africa. Thus, besides the GIS Industry, a proper "geo-information foundation" is critical to the actualization of MDGs.
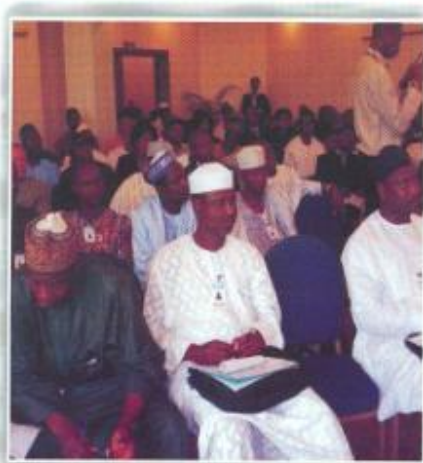
Participants at the simultaneous session.

The **outcome** of the mapping includes the availability of the following:
* Geospatial Data, Information, and Related Products
* Status Maps
* National Topographic Database
* Topographic Maps
* Map Lists
* Digital Data
* Seamless Datasets
* National Elevation Data
* National Land Cover Data
* Digital Ortho-photo Quadrangles
* Digital Raster Graphics
* Digital Elevation Models
* Digital Line Graphs
* National Spatial Data Infrastructure
* Geospatial Data Clearinghouse
* Mapping and Remotely Sensed Data
* National Satellite Land Remote Sensing Data Archive
* Geospatial Data Standards
* Geographic Names

The roles of **poverty mapping** in the actualisation of the MDGs were recognized as follows:
* To make accurate and timely geo-spatial data readily available to support sound decisions and to do so with minimum duplication.
* To promote and improve data sharing as well as measures which ensure that spatial data collected are readily available and useable among potential users of geographic/land information systems such as federal, state and local governments, citizens, private sector organisations, academia etc.
* Poverty Mapping as a vehicle in actualization of MDGs places emphasis on harmonising standards and policies for:
* spatial data capture and exchange,
* the co-ordination of data collection and maintenance activities and
* the use of common database by different agencies, thereby promoting the use of spatial information in decision making and removing impediments to the use of spatial information.

The expertise of Mapping Experts is essential in the actualisation of MDGs for example monitoring environmental changes, in management of resources, in planning and construction. The Office of the Land, Survey and Town planners should figure prominently in the implementation of MDGs. This is because the professionals in these disciplines have ethical duty to advise and inform the Federal Government of Nigeria in relevance of Poverty Mapping to MDGs.

Surveyors confront a number of global challenges in the actualisation of MDGs. These are in three categories: Technology Development, Microeconomic Reform and Capacity Building. These global drivers also affect the profile of the surveying profession and they challenge the whole educational basis of the profession.

**Technology development**
* The technological development in the GIS industry is the major driving force in changing the face of the spatial information world. The GPS technologies for measuring have revolutionised the traditional surveying discipline and the high-resolution satellite imagery tends to revolutionise the mapping discipline.

- The database technologies for storage of large data sets and the GIS technologies for data management, analysis and manipulation arguably have had the greatest impact on the spatial information environment. In recent times, the communication technologies such as the WWW and the Internet have become the focus of attention for viewing and using spatial data.

## Micro-economic reform

- The micro-economic reform initiatives represent the institutional and governmental side of the changes observed during the last two decades. These include initiatives such as privatisation, decentralisation, downsizing, cost recovery, performance contracts, quality assurance, public/private partnership, and other policies to ensure service delivery and cost effectiveness. These initiatives have changed the focus from the pure technological issues to include also the more managerial components of building and maintaining national spatial data infrastructures

- A globalised world is one in which political, economic, cultural, and social events become more interconnected. The process includes that events in one part of the world increasingly have potential to impact on people and societies in other parts of the world. Globalisation widens the perspectives from the local to the global level. This should lead to a world movement towards improving the quality of lives of people by thinking, working together on common concerns. Globalisation has a social, economic, political, as well as an educational dimension. The www is the most graphic example of this trend, even if the full potential of the web as an educational resource is still to be seen.

- The use of GIS in decision-making requires standards and access tools that guide the multipurpose use of the data.

## Capacity Building

The Capacity Building Challenge relates to:
- Sustainable Survey Departments
- Sustainable Survey and Mapping infrastructures
- Sustainable human resources and skills

In **conclusion**, the author observed that over the last few years, the pace of changes in the GIS industry has accelerated with the introduction of Millennium Development Goals. These changes are being driven by a number of forces. The most important of these is the promotion of spatial data infrastructure as a basic component for good governance. This is leading to a demand for geographical information and geographically enabled applications from very rapidly growing markets and sectors. Under the auspices of the Millennium Development Goals, a basic geographic data set or "framework" is being produced. The framework will be a consistent set of digital geospatial data and supporting services that will satisfy the needs of users to maintain and manage the variety of common information being collected by the public and private sector.

## 3. THEME 3: GENDER ISSUES IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### 3.1 PLENARY SESSION THREE, 2.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Chairperson:     Mrs. Feyi Soluade George, Member, Board of Trustees, CLP

Speaker:          Hajiya Bilkisu Yusuf, mni, Citizens Communication

Title of Paper: Gender Issues in Community Development

Lead Discussants:     Dr. Habiba Muda Lawal (representing the Hon. Minister of Women Affairs)

Dr. Ademola Ajuwon, College of Medicine, U.C.H., Ibadan

### Summary of Presentation

The session chaired by Mrs. Feyi Soluade-George who stood in for Professor Bolanle Awe. In her opening remarks, the Chairperson underscored the importance of involving women who constitute half of the population in decision making. In our traditional societies men consult their wives and tap their ideas before decisions are taken. Whatever method of communication is used by women to convey their views, which could vary from verbal to body language all add up to the final decisions taken by man.

The Plenary Speaker, Hajiya Bilkisu Yusuf prefaced her paper with definitions of gender and sex, which she said are often used synonymously although they are different. She defined sex as a God-given human category, universal and constant, whereas gender is a social construct created by the society and refers to the roles, responsibilities allocated to people based on their sex. Gender roles are influenced by class, religion, age, culture and

ethnicity etc. and women are allocated specific roles in many societies. They are expected to nurture children, cook, do the laundry and concentrate their activities within the domestic sphere while men are the rulers and leaders who take the decisions, work outside the home (public sphere), and dominate the political, economic and social sphere.

The speaker thereafter proceeded to define Community Development as an empowerment process that enables people to understand the reality of their environment and take steps to effect changes to improve the situation. It entails people assessing where they are now and developing and implementing plans to reach their goals. Three



Session Chair, Mrs. Feyi Soluade-George

approaches to community development were identified; the extension approach, the project approach also known as rural development approach and the service approach also known as the self help approach. She affirmed that Community development is deeply rooted in traditional societies and various community groups such as age grade, groups, and town unions, occupational and cultural groups undertake community

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**HAJIYA BILKISU YUSUF, mni,**

Development project and women have always participated in community development projects.

The speaker thereafter traced developments in addressing the challenges of gender imbalance with the following highlights:
- Various global initiatives have addressed gender imbalance among them the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action and the International Conference on Population and Development.
- The domestication of these led to the establishment of various national gender initiatives such as the Women in Development, the Better Life Programme for Rural Dwellers BLP and Family Support Programme FSP.
- The BLP generated awareness and put gender issues on the front burner of national discourse. It also led to the establishment of various income generating projects such as cooperative organisations, new farms,

shops and markets, micro –credit etc, and. It won some local and international awards.
- Gender analysis of projects was under taken using the Women in Development WID approach, Women and Development WAD and the Gender and Development GAD approach.
- The WID approach was criticised for providing only welfare and not modifying the approach to women's empowerment. It did not question the causes of women's inequality but only reinforced them by supporting women's traditional roles. As for the WAD approach, its critics argued that women had always been involved in development and to ensure that they become equal partners would require a gender analysis of their role in development.
- The GAD approach emerged to address these deficiencies. GAD implies an acknowledgement of the multiple forms of subordination and discrimination women endure in relation to men, which is experienced differently in relation to age, socio-economic conditions, religion, geographical location etc. It is a holistic approach that involves men and women working together.
- A gender empowerment frame work was presented. It involves providing **welfare** to women which could lead to access to vital resources required for development, and **conscientisation** which is the phase where women question and address factors that hinder their effective participation. It is then followed by **mobilisation** and **participation** of women actively in decision making to ensure gender balance.
- Participation leads to **control** and **empowerment** which ensures that women have control over resources and their productivity is reflected in their advancement.
- The National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy NEEDS was identified as a social charter designed to reform public and private sector, reduce poverty, enhance productivity and create

wealth. NEEDS was identified as the mechanism for achieving the eight goals of the Millennium Development Goals. MDGs The **problems and prospects of Community Development** were identified as:

- Contradictions between CD goals and actual input into implementation.
- Lack of continuity as regime change leads to scrapping of projects e.g. replacement of BLP with FSP by Abacha regime.
- Under funding of CD projects.
- Insufficiency of grants and equipment contributed by government.
- Introduction of grants-in-aid did not solve problem of inequalities among rural communities.
- Lack of transparency and accountability in implementation of CD.
- Politicization of CD projects as some agencies or government claim credit for what they did not initiate or implement, e.g. DFRRI road sign boards removed and replaced by other development claimants.
- Unfavourable, unstable macroeconomic environment.
- Erratic agricultural and rural development policies and programmes.
- Low public spending on agricultural and rural development.
- Frequent relocation of CD department – for example, CD Department location changed 10 times in Edo State.

Addressing these problems would require concrete action by government at all levels in the following directions:

- Faithful implementation of MDGs and NEEDs.
- Integrate reproductive health into CD and combat maternal mortality.
- Galvanize political will to increase budgetary allocation to CD.
- Establishment of an effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation frame work for CD projects.
- Promote sustainable CD from gender perspective by integrating gender in all CD polices and programmes
- Promote people oriented public finance analysis to ensure transparency and accountability.

- Ensure bureaucratic stability for CD by locating and retaining it in the relevant ministry.
- Promote maintenance culture
- Adequate plans for provision of service and maintenance of CD projects.

## Discussion

The presentation was followed by the comments of the lead discussants, Drs. Habiba Lawal and Ademola Ajuwon. Dr. Habiba Lawal, who represented Hon. Minister of Women Affairs, Hajiya Maryam Ciroma, made the following comments:

- Community Development is a development process leading to empowerment.
- Community development is about challenging inequitable distribution of resources in society.
- CD is a collective process. It involves solidarity with people facing exclusion CD is about participation and empowerment.
- The link between CD and gender inequality is the recognition that both are about equitable distribution of resources and participation in political, social and economic sectors. Gender balance requires that men and women should all participate in planning, implementing and monitoring of projects.
- On gender analysis, Dr. Lawal said the assumption is that women's participation in projects will promote gender equity. This is not always true; therefore the impact of any project on men and women must be identified and addressed. She affirmed that any project that is not engendered is endangered and added that the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs (FMWA) has developed a National Gender Policy, which has enabled the Ministry to work with all other Ministries and Departments and to address gender mainstreaming in their staffing and projects.

The second discussant was Dr. Ademola Ajuwon of the College of Medicine, UCH, Ibadan, noted that gender expectations pose undue but variable stresses and challenges on both men and women depending on gender

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roles. He observed the unfairness of gender inequity to the disadvantage of women. Women have a heavy workload at home, nurturing children, managing community and undertaking productive activities. Sometimes they experience role conflicts that may adversely affect their health making them less positioned for participation. He noted that women are under-represented in decision-making and that poverty does have a female face as women are more disproportionately affected by poverty. Male preference also ensures that boys are more likely to get educated than girl children, thus depriving them of an opportunity to acquire education.

The comments of the lead discussants were followed by comments from the floor. The first participant said men and women have different roles and some functions can be performed by men while some can be performed by women. At the local level, people feel endangered if gender is addressed. It is erroneously believed that when women "take over" there will be problems. There is thus a need to strategise. Quoting the late Tanzanian leader, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the speaker said, not involving women in development is like saying that 'Though I have two legs, I have chosen to walk with one. How far can I go?'

The second comment was from a participant from Kebbi State Poverty Eradication Project. He said women create problems for themselves in all this discussion of gender. They are passive and not conscious of the need to ensure gender balance in all aspects of community development. If you were to ask the women in the room to elect a leader, they would elect a man. In his opinion, it is women that reinforce gender imbalance.

Reacting to the comments of the second participant, the Chairperson of the session said the fact that women elect a man instead of a woman as leader does not mean that men are superior. Such a man is usually elected because he has the qualities required of a leader.

In her contribution, **Professor Bolanle Awe**, chairperson of the CLP Board of Trustees,

noted that gender is about men and women working together. She observed that patriarchy is a western concept as in traditional Nigerian societies there is recognition of the importance of both the male and female genders. In the Yoruba culture gender discrimination is non-existent. She pointed out that the Yoruba have an adage that suggests that 'It does not matter whether it is the man or the woman who kills the snake, what is important is that the snake is killed'. She observed that not all the international instruments that seek to eliminate gender inequality have been domesticated in Nigeria. Ignoring 49% of Nigeria's population in the development process, she observed is a great loss.

Professor Awe commended the current efforts of government of publishing the financial allocations to states and local governments in newspapers as this will provide a basis of people to start asking politicians to account for the monies given to them. There is a need for accountability in public expenditure and also for appointing or electing only trustworthy leaders. She observed that retired teachers and public servants would make committed leaders and should therefore be given an opportunity to serve as they are more likely to be responsive to the needs of the people.

**3.2 Simultaneous Sessions**
**Session 3.2.1**

**Chairperson: Lady Nkechi Onah,**
**University of Nigeria, Enugu**

**Speakers:**
1. Ojukwu Mark Ojukwu and Maduaka Adanma: Mainstreaming Gender and Women's Rights in HIV/AIDS Community Development Efforts: Lessons from Promoting Sexual Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Reduction in Nigeria (PSRHH) Program
2. Fanen Ade, Program Advisor, RSH/HIV/AIDS ActionAid International Nigeria: Youth CBO Initiating intervention at the community level

## Summary of Presentations

### Paper 1: Mainstreaming Gender and Women's Rights in HIV/AIDS Community Development Efforts: Lessons from Promoting Sexual Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS Reduction in Nigeria (PSRHH) Program

The paper, presented by Mr. Ojukwu, reported on an attempt to mainstream gender into an ongoing PSRHH programme, which was funded by DFID and USAID and implemented by Society for Family Health (SFH), ActionAid International, Nigeria (AAIN) and Crown Agents. Civil Society organizations were said to drive the community level programme activities with support form the implementing partners.

The goal of the programme was to improve sexual and reproductive health among poor and vulnerable populations in Nigeria. The target populations are female out-of-school youths, male out-of-school youths, female sex workers, transport workers and uniformed service men.

Gender mainstreaming was added after the program started. The contextual issues that informed the subsequent mainstreaming of gender included the recognition of the imbalance in power relations between males and females which increases HIV risk and vulnerability by curtailing females' sexual autonomy and expanding the sexual freedom of males. There is also unequal access to information, safer sex products and services to the disadvantage of females. The patriarchal community systems and structures sustain gender-based violence, the denial of control over female bodily integrity and sexual rights and the low self-esteem among female target groups leading to conformity to stereotyped roles and behaviours are added factors enhancing the vulnerability of females to HIV. This is further aggravated by limitation in access to resources which restricts participation in decision-making process.

The objectives of the gender mainstreaming effort were to develop gender sensitive and responsive strategies that will harness females and males capabilities for positive HIV/AIDS response, create an environment whereby females and males can examine the damaging aspects of gender norms and experiment new behaviours aimed at creating more equitable roles and relationships. Additionally, the project sought to reduce gender inequalities by increasing females' livelihood options and promoting active participation in decision-making for positive HIV/AIDS response.

Various relevant tools were used mainstream gender with the following as the sequential steps taken:

- Strengthening of the gender units of the implementing partners
- Conduct of gender audit of the program
- Utilization of community framing checklists to identify interventions that address female and male vulnerability and risk factors
- Formation of strategic partnerships with leader who can influence policies & strategies to reach vulnerable and at risk groups
- Designing and implementing HIV/AIDS activities that take gender-based risks and vulnerability into account
- Developing and utilization gender-sensitive indicators for participatory monitoring and evaluation
- Timely sharing of data collected to the communities

The major achievements of the programme were given as increase in confidence of the women, change in power relations, empowerment through skills acquisition, increased access to services for the treatment of sexually transmitted infections and empowerment of female sex workers with skills for consistent and correct condom negotiation and use with clients. Additionally, there was evidence of more equitable participation by females and males in the leadership of the emergent community-based organization.

Deep-rooted patriarchal arrangements and socialization that inhibits females from accessing basic HIV information, the

excessive burden of care on women and increasing were identified as ongoing challenges.

The presenter recommended the provision of supportive policies and legislation for women inclusion in governance, continuous capacity development for program staff for better appreciation of the intersections of gender, women's rights and HIV/AIDS. He also recommended the transforming gender relations by strengthening engagement with social networks and the proactive involvement of communities in addressing gender-related HIV/AIDS issues.

### Paper 2: Youth CBO Initiating Intervention at the Community Level by Fanen Ade, Program Advisor, RSH/HIV/AIDS ActionAid International Nigeria

The paper, presented another of the PSRHH projects, funded by DFID and USAID and being implemented by Society for Family Health (SFH), ActionAid International, Nigeria (AAIN) and Crown Agents. The goal of the PSRHH programme is to improve sexual reproductive health and HIV/AIDS among poor and vulnerable populations in Nigeria.

The project was informed by the limited success achieved with earlier attempts to deal with the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Nigeria because the disease was being addressed as a medical and technical issue to be dealt with within a medical paradigm to the exclusion the general population in program planning and implementation.

The project was carried out in North Bank, Makurdi, Benue State, among out of school males and females. High prevalence of teenage school drop-outs, pregnancies, alcohol/drug abuse, robberies and gang fights in North Bank were factors that informed the selection of that site for peer education with youth groups.

A two tiered mentoring strategy was used. The capacity of a local NGO (SWAAN, Benue State) was built. SWAAN, Benue State as the intermediary NGO then trained 15 male and 15

female out of school youths as peer educators. As part of the sustainability plan, the male and female youths were supported to form a CBO (Youth Forum against HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse) so as to continue with peer education when technical support from implementing organizations stop. They were mentored to elect officials write their constitution and register the organization and they were linked to LACA. The CBO is now working with LACA.

A number of successes were identified: Given the heterogeneity of the community and the resultant mistrust among the different ethnic groups resident in the area, intensive advocacy was carried out to win the support of the different stakeholders; this opened the gates for the interventions. The behavioural change communication programmes, which actively involved community members tended to make community members, change agents and role models. Two of the members of the groups, former school drop-outs who used to hawk oranges are now in the university.

The presenter recommended that community interventions that promote community participation should be encouraged and the participatory approach to holistic sexuality education (sexuality, gender-based violence, sexual rights, security and HIV/AIDS) that aims at capacity building and empowerment promoted.

### Discussion

The contributions from the floor were mostly in the form of questions. **Mr. Tony Ajayi, Care for Life, Gombe,** sought to know whether the youths in the Makurdi project are involved in other empowerment activities aside the peer education plus, especially since they have no jobs.

**Mallam Salleh Yahaya, Bauchi State Agricultural Project,** wanted to know what the Makurdi project was doing to address the older men that lure the girls to engage in transactional sex. He also questioned whether any empowerment interventions were undertaken to ensure the youths become

gainfully employed and the project is sustained beyond the project funding life

The chairperson of the session, **Mrs. Nkechi Onah,** sought to know what challenges, if any, the implementers of the Makurdi project had working with the youths and what support they received from their families and communities.

In response, the presenter noted that while the main focus of the project is on knowledge creation not material support, in addition to encouraging the youths to go to school, they are encouraged to set goals and are linked to other agencies, like National Directorate of Employment for skills acquisition, material and financial support. The CBO coordinates the needs of its members and forwards it to Action AIDS who then source for the support. The major challenges reported are the heterogeneity of the community and difficulties with registration. The community demonstrated support by providing a room for the CBO to use as office and provision of counterpart funding. To promote sustainability, the CBO was given technical support to write and submit a proposal for HAF funding.

### Session 3.2.2

### Chairperson:

### Speakers:
1. Onyemelukwe Akaoma (Programme Administrator (RSH)) and Fanen Ade (Zonal Program Advisor (North Central)), ActionAid International: Establishing Gender based leadership through community participation in HIV&AIDS programs: a case study of the female out of school youth (FOSY) in the PSRHH program

### Summary of Presentation
Only one paper was scheduled and presented at this simultaneous session. This paper focused on involvement of Female out of school youths that are hard to reach. The **key issues** raised by the paper include:
- Gender mainstreaming can be used effectively to establish gender-based

leadership, which can be favourable to female such as the female out-of-school youth in communities in fighting against HIV/AIDS.
- Capacity building for the female out of school youth in the prevention of HIV and AIDS infection and vulnerability was very effective.
- Advocacy is a major strategy for community entry and it makes mobilization effective. It helped to establish trust in the PSRHH program and clear all misconception that has existed over community level interventions in relation to HIV and AIDS.

- Training of selected out of school female youths on sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS issues with expectation to deploy these knowledge and messages to their peers by holding peer educations session with them is an essential tool in fighting HIV/AIDS.
- Discussing issues on sexuality education, HIV and AIDS and gender needs atmosphere of confidentiality and openness, and community participation.
- Female Out-of-School Youth (FOSY) is hard to reach, more vulnerable to HIV and AIDS, and disempowered by societal influences and interpretations in responding to issues of HIV and AIDS at both individual and community levels.

The papers **recommendations** were that:
- As development workers who are expected to facilitated development processes and intervention in communities, there is a need to mainstream gender by developing effective strategies of creating leadership and dealing with gender-based issues in programme.
- Attention should be given to groups that are marginalized, vulnerable and disempowered. By this therefore, progress would be made in reducing vulnerability to HIV and AIDS and promote empowerment.

DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION
ACTIVITIES FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Community Life Project

# PART IV
## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY....

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## DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, 31 JANUARY 2007

## 4. THEME 4: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, FOOD SECURITY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### 4.1 PLENARY SESSION FOUR

Chairperson:    Dr. Salihu Ingawa (PCU, Abuja)

Speaker:    Mr. Peter M. Papka (LEEMP)

Title of Paper:    Environmental Sustainability, Food Security and Community Development

Discussant:    Dr. Tunji Oredipe (FADAMA)

## Introduction

The Plenary Speaker began by defining the key concepts of environmental sustainability, food security and community development, and gave an overview of the theme for discussion at the session. He posited that environmental sustainability approach started in the form of National Planning and Economic Development; Government Policy (e.g. National Environmental Policy, Draft National Forest Policy, Water and Sanitation Policy, Multilateral Environmental Agreement); Government Institutions/Research (creation of FEPA/SEPA, NARESCON, and Federal Ministry of Environment in 1999); Government Project (EIA Sectoral Guidelines, Biodiversity Action Plans, Environment Management Project – World Bank, Waste Management – solid and industrial, Flood Erosion Control, Adoption of Environmental Safeguards in all projects (World Bank), African Stockpile Project, and LEEMP Environmental Checklist. The presenter then added that food security issues had also been addressed via government policy, government projects and programmes, establishment of relevant institutions and research. He also outlined government policy, programmes and establishment of institutions as channels through which community development activities were put in place.

The speaker pointed out that the thrust of MDGs and NEEDS cuts across environmental sustainability, food security and community development. He observed that the first and seventh goals of the MDGs stressed the need to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (reduction of hunger by year 2015) and ensure environmental sustainability, respectively. He said the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategies (NEEDS) document was developed with a view to:

* Empowering people to take decision and participate in governance;
* Promoting private sector enterprise; and
* Focusing on the way government does business.

As for Community Development (CD), the thrust has been largely rooted in collective action and cohesion, security of assets, cost effectiveness, ownership, effective for poverty Reduction and sustainability of intervention.

## Emerging Issues

The following were outlined as the issues that ought to be given due consideration:

i. Majority of rural populace depend on natural resources (NR) (land, forests, biodiversity, water, non-renewable energy);
ii. Increasing population exerting pressure on NR and environment;
iii. Unsustainable, inefficient use and inequitable access;
iv. Agriculture and NR are the greatest contributors to GDP; 60% of the population are engaged in agriculture;
v. Increased pressure to improve living standards, thereby creating environmental and health challenges;
vi. Inadequate recognition of gender roles in NR environmental management; 60-80% women labour engaged in agriculture;
vii. Increased government spending without significant effect on poverty reduction; over 65% of the population is poor;
viii. Urbanization resulting in reduction of farm labour;
ix. HIV/AIDS;
x. Multiplicity of policies and legislation, which in most cases, are uncoordinated; and,
xi. Research and Development, which are not farmer-driven; reliance on modern development approaches – throwing overboard traditional practices (indigenous knowledge of technology); weak support for research and development; Research, which are mainly government funded; low diffusion of innovation in agriculture and environmental management.

The presenter then suggested the following as the way forward viz.:

* Environmental health, sanitation and water through Policy review and regulation for protected area (PA) management; adoption of participatory management of PA; restoration of degraded PA, etc;
* Biodiversity by streamlining various policies, regulation, enforcement of mandates and agencies, among others;
* Energy - developing and encouraging the use of alternative energy – e.g. solar, biogas, coal etc as contained in the

Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP), among others; and

- Food security, which is dependent on environmental sustainability and active participation of the people.

Based on lessons learned from past experiences, the speaker affirmed that focus should be shifting from resource-based and production oriented strategies to increasing competitiveness and profitability along commodity or value chains. To **achieve the shift**, Mr. Papka posited that the country must address the following:

- Land Management: as reflected in land use capability; adoption of integrated ecosystem-watershed approach; and improvement and sustainable management of soil and water,
- Production: addressed via input supply/credit; focusing on higher value crop, livestock, forest, etc; adopting appropriate sustainable production practices; creating opportunity for value addition, etc.

Besides, human resource development through appropriate skills and knowledge acquisition, intensification of extension activities, leveraging capacities in institutions, education and awareness etc. are imperatives in achieving sustainable development.

In closing, the speaker made the following

### Recommendations:

- Laws reform, rules, guidelines, regulation and policies especially as they relate to agro-chemical laws, environmental regulation, trade and marketing; making them more people-oriented;
- Emphasizing on food commodity chain and competitiveness; employ effective interventions to ensure they are affordable, appropriate and scalable;
- Investing in human and social capital to drive the process noting, however, the need to establish mechanism for proper targeting of women and other vulnerable groups;
- Establishing effective People-Public-Private Sector Partnerships (4Ps) including

Communities, NGOs and Civil Society for leveraging resources; let it be "process heavy" by aligning multi-stakeholders in planning;

- Strengthening existing structure for community development at all levels and make forum for synergizing LGA and community level interventions;
- Strengthening institutional and inter-governmental linkages; collaborating with development partners to enable leverage in training, networking and community outreach;
- Strengthening existing mechanisms for tracking MDGs performance, especially by incorporating community level issues.
- Adopting an integrated ecosystem/watershed management to better position the country's food security, environmental sustainability and community development strategies.

### Discussion

The **Lead Discussant, Dr. Tunji Oredipe**, alluded to the FADAMA programme, which he said has the thrust of investing in capacity building and mobilisation. He affirmed that grassroots people were beginning to take charge of their lives. He further added that there was no better approach to development other than CDD. The discussant reported that the FADAMA programme was anchored on four pillars, which are:

- The development of community people themselves through capacity-building, which comes in the form of entrepreneurship development as reflected in many projects, credit facilities through counterpart funding, identification of common interest groups (about $180 million has been invested in capacity building);
- Empowering the Local Governments; with LEEMP and FADAMA, LGs are becoming more responsible;
- Commitment to realigning the central government; and
- Transparency and accountability through monitoring and evaluation, computerisation (aggregation) of information on the activities of the

programme, and accountability of FADAMA to the people by enabling them to have access to information through the web and publications.

In the area of the environment, Dr. Oredipe affirmed that FADAMA II programme had passed the test of environmental sustainability just as all the activities centred on the management of the environment. He further opined that the thrust of the programme was to increase the income of the beneficiaries, who are members of organised groups. He submitted that about 5.3 percent of the beneficiaries were of the vulnerable (physically challenged) group category. The discussant then affirmed that it was the intention of FADAMA III to cover all the states in the Federation.

### Reactions from Participants: Questions and Comments

The contribution of the Lead Discussant was followed by comments from other participants. **Chief (Mrs.) Bisi Ogunleye** (COWAN) wanted to know the extent to which LEEMP and FADAMA II had impacted on the area already covered by the programmes. The **Speaker** **responded** that a group of people had been identified to manage the community project (LEEMP) on behalf of the entire people of the communities where such projects were situated. **Dr. Oredipe** intervened to indicate the programmes dealt with organised (rural) groups, which were expected to spread the gains of the programmes to other members of the community.

**Lady Nkechi Onah** (Enugu) sought clarifications on the issue of securing the infrastructures put in place by the programme knowing full well that some people would always poise to purloin. She also wanted to know whether the programme had provided marketing outlets for

the farmers in the programme. The **Lead Discussant, Dr. Oredipe** quickly affirmed that some sub-committees within the localities had been put in place to mount routine surveillance on the equipment and infrastructure of the programme to ensure adequate protection. With regards to marketing outlets, the discussant indicated that community market

was already being proposed.

**Lanre Ajani** (CDC, Surulere, Lagos), suggested the total inclusion of community people who may not necessarily be members of a clique already benefiting from the programme. **Dr. Oredipe** responded unequivocally that FADAMA III would look into the proposal. **R.A. Oyelekan**, a farmer from Lagos State, confirmed that FADAMA farmers were already enjoying in his State. **Mrs. Yinka Fasetire** (Director, Community Development, Lagos State) commented on the efforts made to ensure that CDD projects were successful.

### 4.2 Simultaneous Sessions

#### Session 4.2.1

Chairperson:  Chichi Aniagolu Okoye, Ph.D.

Speaker:  **Asambo Meshack, EPG-PN GDIE, Shell Petroleum Development Company, Enterprise support for fishing in the Niger Delta: case study of kuruama communityBy**

*Note: While three papers were slated for discussion, only one paper was presented during this session. The other two scheduled for discussion were: (1)* Empowerment of Rural Farmers Through Innovations: A Study of OSSADEP Activities in Iwo, Osun State, *by Godswill Okiji, Department of Human Communities, Bowen University, Iwo; (2)* Community Demand-Driven Agricultural Development: Social Challenges of a Paradigm Shift in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nigeria, *by Egri Ejembi of the Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication, University of Agriculture, Makurdi.*

#### Summary of Presentation

Mr. Meshack introduced his paper by pointing out that fishing is an important traditional occupation in the Niger Delta including Kuruama Community – a Coastal Community in the Niger Delta (Bonny Kingdom, Rivers State) with a population of about 500 people. Fishermen were obliged to fish offshore due to decreasing returns over the years, as a consequence of the drilling of petroleum in the

fishing boats and accessories are expensive and capacity building needed to fish offshore. It was in light of this that the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) intervened and through partnership with Kuruama people, established an offshore fishing business.

Ahead of its intervention in the community, SPDC conducted business needs assessment (BNA) and discovered a high poverty level. This led to the formation of Project Management Committee (PMC) who developed a project proposal that worth N 8,770,000.00. The Project was commissioned in July 2006 and three months later, assessment was made which showed: 100% revenue growth in 3 months, employment of several women, youths and men in the community, increased capacity of the populace in terms of off shore fishing. The increased available money led to the evolution of credit facility being given to the community members.

In discussing the lessons learnt and the challenges, the speaker pointed out that a single good project can change the life of a community. The community can be guided to initiate a project that can change their life: all they needed is support, either financial or social. It was difficult to encourage the community form a CBO and improve their capacity on the off shore fishing.

### Discussion
A number of participants raised the issue of STIs and HIV/AIDS which they consider prevalent in the area under study due to the absence of men from their families. Similarly, the depletion of the fish harvest yield over time was raised and suggestions made to cope as the problem is restricting catch to mature fishes and returning the immature ones to the river. Other participants raised the issue of the need for scaling up and sustainability of the programme. Training and re-training was suggested as a means of achieving these goals.

### 5. THEME 5: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING

**5.1 PLENARY SESSION FIVE**
Chairperson:             Dr. Andrew Arkutu

(former Country Representative, UNFPA, Nigeria)
Speaker:             Mrs Ndidi Okonkwo-

Nwuneli,             Founder/
            CEO Leap Africa
Title of Paper:             Community Relations and Partnership Building
Discussant:             Nnimmo Bassey, Executive Director, Environmental Rights Action (ERA)

### Summary of Presentation
The speaker began with a definition of partnership which she describes as a process for getting people to work together. She opined that there are critical issues in a partnership. Once you are getting money from other people, there's a need for transparency. If we say we are going to work together, we have to decide how. There is also a need for specific initiative. The first is connection. There has to be something that we have decided to address.

The issue of what values are being projected and/or protected must also be clear. According to the speaker, her organisation, **Leap Africa**, was once approached for work by a major alcohol producing company, with the possibility of *Leap Africa* making a lot of money. She disclosed that the matter was discussed by the board and questions were asked about the values that would be projected. The Board decided that the organisation could not accept the offer because it does not want to advertise alcohol at its events.

The speaker affirmed that there has to be commitment to the partnership as all stakeholders have something to learn in a partnership. Everyone needs the other in one way or the other. She disclosed that *Leap Africa* is not driven by the so-called 'bottom line', because it is a non-profit organization. She disclosed that many people in the private sector do not have a good opinion of the public sector and vice-versa. She also recalled the

excesses of some NGOs, some of which are based in Lagos but claim that they are working in far away places such as Gombe in Northern Nigeria. Such organisations could not be effective on the ground.

Mrs. Okonkwo-Nwuneli recalled the peculiar challenges confronting not-for-profit

media has a great role to play in setting the agenda. She recalled that Timberland donates to communities on an annual basis and the organisation gets a lot of advertising in return. Organisations need to go into partnerships in order to advance their agenda because partnerships enhance productivity. Investment also goes up. An example of corporate



Mrs. Ndidi Okonkwo-Nwuneli making her presentation.

organisations in Nigeria. For example, granting of tax breaks to individuals and corporate bodies for making donations to charitable organisations such as *Leap Africa* would ordinarily be taken for granted in some advanced countries. However, this is not the case in the Nigerian environment. The speaker lamented the absence of an enabling environment for not-for-profit work in Nigeria. In the peculiar Nigerian environment, the public sector competes with non-profit organisations. There is no reason for any ministry to be running a micro finance institution, for instance.

At another level, the speaker disclosed that the

sector/not-for-profit partnership is Bellview's partnership with the Sickle cell Foundation.

*Leap Africa*, according to the speaker, has strategic partnerships with some leading financial institutions. It should be pointed out that not-for-profit organisations are not necessarily charities. And it is also important for such organisations to have good relationships with the host communities. Such things as cleaning the gutters in front of the office make for good working relationship with the host communities.

## Discussion

In his comments, the Lead Discussant, **Nnimmo Bassey**, said the civil society is very critical of the oil industry's relationship with the communities in the Niger Delta. Shell will be declaring profits without putting anything significant back into those communities. All that the civil society is asking of Shell is that it should devote some part of its huge profit to clean up the Niger Delta. Other corporations should learn from this? Mr. Bassey said he does not trust the corporate organizations operating in the Niger
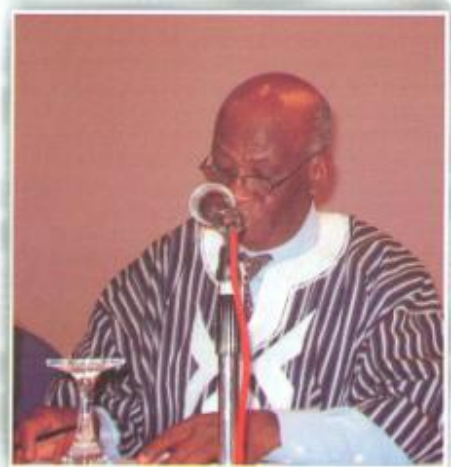


Dr. Andrew Arkutu, Chair of the session

Delta area. In the opinion of the Lead Discussant, any organisation that is more concerned with profits rather than people cannot go far. In dealing with the problem, corporate organisations working in troubled areas should avoid adopting a talk down approach which is partly responsible for the tense situation in the Niger Delta area presently.

During the Question and Answer session that followed, a number of participants raised various issues. **Dr Chichi Aniagolu** said some of the examples cited by the Speaker are of countries where things work very well. He then asked: What can we do in the contest of Nigeria where things don't work and companies have to spend so much to stay alive? Mrs Ndidi

Okonkwo-Nwuneli responded that Nigeria is still far behind in many respects. Given her experience with the work at *Leap Africa* and *Fate Foundation*, she was convinced that it is not particularly easy. *Leap Africa* train staff on leadership issues for free while the organisation also maintains a strategic partnership with Little Saints Orphanage. This is similar to the strategic partnership between Bellview Airlines and the Sickle cell Foundation.

Mrs. Okonkwo-Nwuneli counselled social entrepreneurs should look around their community to see those who have given something and for the social entrepreneur to give something back.

Mr. **Nnimmo Bassey**, the Lead Discussant mentioned that the report that Nigeria has agreed to supply power to Togo on behalf of Ghana is intriguing. If the corporation has to tar its own roads, dig its own borehole, what really is left for corporate social responsibility? The Nigerian environment could be so frustrating. Ms. Gloria Obinnah from Imo State said that many things had been observed at the community level before FADAMA came on board. However, once these projects became operational, they were hijacked by the elite. There is a need to establish projects that can be sustained at the community level.

### 5.2 Simultaneous Sessions

#### Session 5.2.1

**Chairperson:**

**Speakers:**
1. Mr. Omololu Fagbadebo, Department of Political Science, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife: The Role of Community-Based Organisation in the Sustenance of Democracy in Nigeria: A Case Study of Ago Daada in Ondo State.
2. Mr. Kenn Nwokoro, SPDC, Warri: Rural Telecommunications – The Engine for Sustainable Community Development

**Note**: *While three papers were slated for presentation and discussion at this session that was devoted to highlighting the pathways of a*

*few success stories of partnership building that resulted in significant improvement in the lives of selected communities,, only two were presented. The third paper scheduled for presentation was,* **Improving Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Through Community Participation** *by Onyemelukwu Akamo of ActionAid International.*

## Summary of Presentations

**Paper 1: The Role of Community-Based Organisation in the Sustenance of Democracy in Nigeria: A Case Study of Ago Daada in Ondo State, by Oluseye Abiodun and Omololu Fagbadebo**

The paper reported the impact of a partnership programme promoted by ActionAid International Nigeria (AAIN) on Ago Daada. Ago Daada is a remote community of about 1600 inhabitants in Ondo State. It has only one primary school and adult literacy level was about 32%. Prior to the AAIN Partnership Against Poverty (PAP) intervention in Ago Daada, access to basic amenities of life including safe drinking water and health care system were none existent.

AAIN adopted the *Regenerated Freirean Literacy Empowering Community Technique* (REFLECT) which "attempts to strengthen the capacity of people especially the poor and marginalized to communicate their ideas and issues. It helps people to claim and ascertain their basic rights and challenge structures, institutions and systems of injustice and oppression ... (and) creates space for the voice of the poor and marginalized to be heard on their existing knowledge and experience".

AAIN partnered with the community to form the Ago Daada Community Development Committee (CDC) that eventually became the platform for mobilizing and educating the community for active participation in political activities. The community claimed that the partnership gave them "confidence and intellectual base to seek government intervention" in their community. The tangible results were grading of a 45 km road, solar powered water borehole. The Community also benefited from an EU-MPP6 programme through which a block of four classrooms, library, head teacher's office and a gender sensitive VIP toilet in the community primary school were provided.

## Questions and Comments

Following the presentation, some of participations raised a number of questions. **Mohammed Abubakar** asked what the life span of PAP was and what challenges were encountered. **Innocent Chinwe** asked how the people were reached in view of the fact that different approaches are required to penetrate literate, semi-literate and illiterate communities. On her part, **Edna Matthew Njoku** asked what would have happened if there was a leader who when the community reject his rice, he/she also rejects the community. Was the rice rejection the most appropriate response to press home a community need?

**Kenn Nwokoro** asked if there was any attempt by the community to approach government about their situation prior to refusing rice. The final comment was from **Alabi Oluwole** who said that beyond rejection of rice, the people were showing their resentment of government policies and are growing in their unwillingness to even perform their civic duties as a result of the failure of government policies and electoral promises.

In **response**, the presenter said the lifespan of the project was 7-10 years and the project is just in the second year. REFLECT training was done for 2 people on approaches to demanding for rights as a community. PAP had reached the community before the issue of rice arose. The community leader was a former oil company worker. He also pointed out that Government was aware of the problems of the community because Councillors and Local Government Chairmen had come from the Community. On dealing with a tough political leader, no politician will turn back on a community that rejects gifts because politicians know how to get what they want. It is easier for them to rig elections in small communities and it is only in areas of strength that a politician can rig.

The question and answer session was followed by a **discussion** session during which the main point centred on whether the rejection of the bag of rice by the community was the alarm trigger that propelled the government to grant the request of the community as the authors claimed. It was generally agreed that the Nigerian politics is driven by the greed of a few people who find local betrayers as allies to work with in mortgaging community wishes and interests. It was concluded that while collective community agitation for rights should be encouraged, it should also be noted that Nigeria has not yet developed politically to the level where people's aspirations and wishes drive the process rather than the wishes of a class of privileged few who dispense favours to the larger society as if the society is at their mercy.

An important impression that emerged from the discussion of the presentation is that the paper was largely result-driven rather than purpose/objective-driven. The PAP intervention programme was not *ab initio* about the sustenance pf democracy or people's participation in the political process. It just happened that eradicating poverty or what could be regarded as the removing the factors underlying the abject poverty level in Ago Daada could not have been possible without the involvement of the political players. The intervention was also at a time that politicians were canvassing for votes. Otherwise, the dominant issue of the community rejecting a gift from officials canvassing votes for a return to office after an impending end of term and which the authors seemed to have over emphasised could not have arisen. In view of the fact that these observation were made only about 6 months to election, it is also probable that the positive disposition of government to the request of the community was to guarantee that the vote of the community for the party in government.

### Paper 2: Kenn. Nwokoro and Cynthia Okoye: Rural Telecommunications: The Engine for Sustainable Community Development

The presentation was a result of an on-going project, TELSEP or *Telecommunication Self*

*Employment Program*, that is piloted on a partnership arrangement between two institutions, viz.: the Shell Petroleum Development Company and Globacom (a mobile telephone service provider) in rural telecommunication development. The initiative is targeted at youths (age 18 to 30 years) and women entrepreneurs in SPDC host communities, within Globacom network coverage. The project sought to create and sustain entrepreneurs/employment and income generating opportunities in the telecom business.

A total of 212 call centres were deployed throughout the TELSEP project area. The location of the call centres cuts across SPDC's operational areas as well as areas within GLO network coverage. The period of deployment was been years 2004 and 2005. On completion of the deployment, initial enumeration of the beneficiaries was initiated resulting in a total number of 243 tele-centres being deployed. A total of 147 call centres were selected representing a 60% sample size, which is very significant. The component or the selected figure did not take

into account gender balance. At onset, all 147 call centre managers were unemployed and had no formal source of income. Out of the selected tele-centres, 60 call centres were seen to be operational, giving a functional index of 0.40816 or 40.8%. The process of monitoring and quarterly evaluation of business performance of the beneficiaries is contracted to an external NGO outside of the SPDC/GLO partnership. The NGO prepares quarterly report from which SPDC and GLO would make informed decisions. Again, the perspective and or perception of many people in the Niger-Delta with regards to development projects arising from oil-ventures has been constantly tilted towards or classified as a windfall.

This posture is yet again demonstrated in the TELSEP project wherein a total number of 85 rural tele-centres were seen to be non-operational. This figure represents a 59.2% level of un-productivity with regards to the deployed number of tele-centres. Over the four quarters in 2006, a total of NGN14,185,815 was

the total income received by the beneficiaries, giving an average of NGN304,519 per beneficiary in 2006 representing NGN25,376.58 per month (the income level of a typical Niger-Delta household is put at NGN5,000 with about 46% of its populace living under this income line). This in essence means that TELSEP significantly raised the income level of its beneficiaries by at least 300%. Taking this further means that, a total number of 61 TELSEP beneficiaries and their household now live above the US$1 a day benchmark. Categorically, TELSEP also provided employment options for 243 beneficiaries out which 60 tele-centres have been able to generate NGN14,185,815 in the last year (2006) thereby fostering economic development.

**Discussion**

Following the presentation, some participants raised a number of questions. Mr. Ekanemiyan asked how sustainable the project would be by the time the majority of people have phones. Mr. Christopher Egoyin asked, How much recharge card was offered to beneficiaries? Ms. Yewande Olaopa thereafter suggested that the project should be taken to another level by training the beneficiaries on how to repair phones. Mr. Innocent asked a more pointed question when he asked 'how can other communities benefit from the project?

Mr. Fubara Ohaka, a Youth Leader and a beneficiary, was of the opinion that Shell Petroleum Development Company should be commended for embarking upon the project. It was not everyone that benefited because of lack of monitoring and it would be good for the programme to be expanded. Thus, apart from proper monitoring, Shell should endeavour to partner with other mobile telephone networks.

In the general discussion that followed, it was agreed that SPDC should train beneficiaries in management techniques and encourage such other skills building as would facilitate the good multiplier effect. In addition, the mode of selection of beneficiaries should be pro-poor. Some participants at the session wondered

whether the youth leader used his position to get a slot in the scheme. Mr. Ohaka, the Youth Leader, responded that it was after becoming a beneficiary that other beneficiaries, principally women, unanimously selected him as the Youth Leader because his business has grown to the point that he had diversifies and even employed other jobless youths.

**Session 5.2.2**

**Chairperson:**

**Speakers:**
1. Benjamin Chigozie Mbakwem, Programme Director, Community and Youth Development Initiatives (CYDI): The benefit of partnership in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care
2. Nwadike Jones, EPG-PN-GDIB, SPDC Ltd, Port Harcourt. Development: Best approach in Managing Community Contractors

**Summary of Presentations**

**Paper 1**: The benefit of partnership in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care by Benjamin Chigozie Mbakwem, Programme Director, Community and Youth Development Initiatives (CYDI)

The paper deals with the activities of Community and Youth Development Initiatives (CYDI) carried out in a designed project to prevent HIV/AIDS in the informal workplace, which would be implemented in partnership with government agencies and private sector organisations. The **key issues** raised in the paper include:

- The best way to address HIV/AIDS within the workplace is through partnership involving government, NGOs, and trade associations.
- Enhancing the business management skills of traders and their apprentices would

increase their income and enable them to cope with the potential impact of HIV/AIDS on their businesses.

- The success of any project depends largely on the prevailing circumstances within the community in which it is cited.
- The following are useful steps in combating HIV/AIDS:
  - Conducting informal small group discussions about HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections;
  - Counselling peers and referring them based on their need (e.g. HIV testing, etc);
  - Distributing educational materials (flyers, pamphlets, stickers, posters, etc);
  - Educating peers during special activities (monthly meetings, prayer sessions, etc);
  - Educating peers one-on-one about HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health;
  - Holding regular meetings with other Peer Educators;
  - o Teaching peers how to do a personal risk assessment and negotiate safer sex (e.g. condom use), etc.

- The HIV/AIDS epidemic decreases both the labour supply and production, destabilizes societies, impairs workers' health, undermines development programs, increases poverty and expands labour costs. These negative effects can be reduced through collaborative, tripartite efforts to develop and implement HIV/AIDS workplace programmes.

The paper **recommended** a tripartite approach involving government, civil society and the private sector, to tackle the problem. Working together, the three (government, civil society, and private sector) can prevent economic and social damage, reduce business and personal losses, lower medical costs, and – most

importantly – save lives. Such tripartite efforts are critical because no single party can build an effective, comprehensive, and sustainable programme.

**Paper 2: *Community Development: Best approach in Managing Community Contractors* by Nwadike Jones, EPG-PN-GDIB, SPDC Ltd, Port Harcourt**

In this paper, the author discussed the activities involved in carrying out community projects sponsored by Shell in Port Harcourt with regard to effective ways of successful completion of the project. The **key issues** raised include:

- Project identification should be in line with indigenous community, local or sector plans and based on consultation with intended beneficiaries.
- The whole life cycle of a project should be considered during planning, design and operation, and appropriate maintenance strategy developed.
- Social objectives should be clearly identified at the planning stage and incorporated into the design.
- Funds should be set-aside in the budget.
- Social objective must be clearly defined in the tendered documents and explained at procedure meetings and discussions.
- Attention should be paid to the bidder's social performance and capacity to deliver social obligations.
- Project team must agree best approach in contractual mechanisms to deliver social objectives.

- Procedure meetings/discussions should be done before the client takes indigenous community contractor to site to commence work.
- Contract obligations must be monitored and enforced through incentives and/or sanctions.
- Corruption is a major inhibiting factor for any communal project.
- All audits should be conducted with the same rigour as financial audits.
- Consideration of operation and maintenance at the design stage of the

community projects stimulates enhanced 'local content'.

- Project advisor needs to be equipped with a range of best practice and skills.

### Session 5.2.3

Chairperson: Dr. Andrew Arkutu

Speakers:
1. Chuks Ojidoh, Ngozi Iwere and James Unegbu (Community Life Project, Lagos): *Building partnerships with government agencies and community organisations for intervention programme at the community level.*
2. Fanen Ade, ActionAid International: *Social Capital Networks as veritable potential for sustainable community development*
3. Mrs. Mina M. Ogbanga (CEDSI, Nigeria): *Cross sector partnerships: A value adding Process or a mere rocking chair?*

Summary of Presentations
Paper 1: Chuks Ojidoh, Ngozi Iwere and James Unegbu (Community Life Project, Lagos): *Building partnerships with*



Chuks Ojidoh (CLP) making his presentation during the session. Sitting with his back to the camera is Dr. Andrew Arkutu, chair of the session

*government agencies and community organisations for intervention programme at the community level.*

This paper was a presentation of the Community for Life (CLP) model. It reported an interventionist project carried out by CLP. CLP is a community based, non-governmental organisation founded in 1992 and located in Oshodi/Isolo Local Government Area of Lagos State. The **mission** of CLP includes the promotion of human development, partnering with communities, etc.

The presenter stated that two important paradigm shifts informed and shaped the development of the CLP model. First, was the holistic concept of good health, while the second was the value of social capital. CLP believed that the abundant social capital (existing social networks and social structures) should be harnessed not just for the provision of physical infrastructure but also for the promotion of good health and empowerment of the individual.

The CLP model evolved from partnerships with community associations and local institutions towards the enhancement of health, socio-economic status and general well-being of the people. The Project's partner groups and institutions include market groups, occupational associations, community development associations, faith-based communities, schools, government agencies, hotels, health facilities, traditional ruling councils etc. The key features of the model are community participation and ownership, taking programmes to where the people are; use of diverse and culturally acceptable media; and participatory monitoring and evaluation.

Using this network of partners, the project jointly planned and conducted **various activities** health, sexuality and life skill education sessions for men, women and young persons in the community; provided capacity building for health system as well as community volunteers; offered counselling and referral services; and engaged in policy advocacy.

The presenter highlighted the **driving force** of the CLP as including:
- Principles and values
- Authenticity
- Mutual respect
- Commitment to giving partners ownership of the programme
- Strengthening the unity and cohesion within the partner organisations; and
- Non-interference in the internal affairs of partner organisations among others.

In discussing the **outcomes** of the Project, the speaker reported that among others, CLP had provided person-to-person intensive HIV/AIDS and life skills education and services to **85,549** people. He indicated that there had been some hitches in the process of building partnership with other CBOs as a result of certain human dynamics.

The speaker concluded that the CLP model is simple, sustainable, and workable in any part of the country wherever social capital existed.

### Paper 2: *Social Capital Networks as veritable potential for sustainable community development* authored by Fanen Ade

This paper focused on the activities of ActionAid International amongst the Onmbayaav Widows Multi-purpose Cooperative Society, which is a community based organisation (CBO) in Mbaduku, Vandeikya Local Government of Benue State, Nigeria. The preparation of a need assessment document by the ActionAid enabled the vision and mission of the CBO to become clearer. This document identified thematic areas of interest, which cut across micro-credit, agriculture, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and education.

In discussing the specific activities of ActionAid, the author pointed out that the CBO that was set up, having undergone some training in entrepreneurship development through the Anglican Diocesan Development Services (ADDS), Makurdi, sought assistance from the sponsoring organisation (i.e. ActionAid) to enable it build an office structure.

Through the use of direct labour and local materials, an office complex was built. The training received by the CBO members in resource mobilisation enabled them to seek for financial support from their sons and daughters in urban centres. The launching, which was thereafter organised enabled them raise money that was used as an investment portfolio for granting revolving loans amongst members. This enabled individuals to expand their micro-businesses, hence, translating to the enhancement of the women's ability to send their children to school. The use of participatory approach to enable members identify areas of needs ensured the success of programme.

With regard to the **way forward**, the presenter submitted that the search for workable models and initiatives that would seek to involve rural communities from the on-set needed to be encouraged. He was also of the opinion that training and capacity building for community networks would enable communities look inward and then mobilise resources for development as a form of social protection measures. This would enhance ownership and sustainability.

### Paper 3: *Cross sector partnerships: A value adding process or a mere rocking chair?* by Mrs. Mina M. Ogbanga

In this presentation, the author reported a research work that covered three key communities on the measurement of the value, which partnership with other organisations had on the communities. Borrowing from Tennyson's (1998) work, the presenter defined the concept of partnership as a cross-sectoral alliance in which organisations agree to work together to fulfill an obligation or undertake a specific task.

According to the presenter, the **rocking chair syndrome** refers to a swinging motion that typifies forward and backward agitations, without any veritable movement. This depicts any programme that has not added primary value to its immediate community and, consequently has not reached its core target.

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In terms of **methodology**, the research entailed working with communities that had cross-sectoral partnership with some organisations in Rivers State of Nigeria. The research employed literature review and gathering of primary data. The measuring value, according to the presenter, was by undertaking a measurement of tri-sectoral relationships. Adding a personal thought and perspective, the presenter affirmed that no one would want to enter into any partnership that would not work. The research found that communities are a critical factor in community development.

## Discussion

Following the three presentations, a number of participants raised questions and made general comments. **Mr. Vincent Inyang** (Cross River) appealed for a wide coverage of development programmes in grassroots communities. In response, Mr. Ojidoh (who presented on the CLP) said the CLP approach was developed with the aim of helping community people develop themselves and then transfer such benefits to other communities around them. Mr. Fanen Ade (ActionAid) also responded and indicated that social networking is key to wide coverage in community development.

**Mrs. Yinka Fasetire** (Director, Community Development, Lagos State) advised that Universities and colleges needed to tap from the CD conference in order to come up with documents, which practitioners could utilise as a guide in their work. **Mr. Ahmed M. Ibrahim** (LEEMP) wanted to know the values that could be added to partnering communities.

In response to the various comments, Mrs. Mina Ogbanga said values are relative and cuts across the project, the process and the outcome. The totality of the expected outcome of the project is the added benefit. She, however, said that monitoring and evaluation were still largely unaddressed in terms of value addition resulting from partnership between communities and organisations.

## Recommendations

The following were the recommendations that emanated from the three presentations and the discussion session:

- Social networking is key to broad based CDD programmes;
- Development transcends beyond mere infrastructure development; development is about people;
- There is need for openness, consensus and genuine intention in partnership;
- There is need to emphasise monitoring and evaluation of development programmes to enable the determination of value addition to projects as a result of partnership; and
- Communities are a crucial factor in the equation of CDD process; and
- While it is important to emphasise successes recorded in project endeavours, recognising other project failings would enable development worker learn from their past mistakes.

## Summary of Presentation

Dr. Otive Igbuzor (Country Director, ActionAid International Nigeria) was represented by the Head of Programme at ActionAid International Nigeria, Dr. Omokhudu Idogho. In his paper, Dr. Igbuzor posited that, education as "a

DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION
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Community Life Project

# PART V
## SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION

## DAY 4: THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 2007

**6. THEME 6:** **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE QUEST FOR UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION**

**6.1** **PLENARY SESSION SIX**

**Chairperson:** Dr. Andrew Arkutu (former Country Representative, UNFPA, Nigeria)

**Speaker:** Dr. Otive Igbuzor, ActionAid International Nigeria, Abuja

**Title of Paper:** Community Development and the Quest for Universal Basic Education

**Discussant:** Dr. C. Ubani, Universal Basic Education Commission

human right that should be accorded to all human beings solely by reason of being human." He listed the various international instruments that reinforce this position, notably: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981) and the Child Rights Act.

He noted that the right to education is also recognized by the 1999 Nigerian Constitution,



Dr. Omokhudu Idogho speaking at the session

which provides, in Section 18, that:

(1)     Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels.

(2)     Government shall promote science and technology.

(3)     Government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy, and to this end, Government shall as soon and when practicable provide:

(a)     free, compulsory and universal primary education;

(b)     free secondary education;

(c)     free university education;

(d)     free adult literacy programme.

He noted, however, that the constitutional framework within which this right is affirmed, namely, "fundamental objectives and directive principles of state policy", is not justiceable.

He highlighted the steady decline in the education sector arising from the structural adjustment programme of the 1980s and 1990s, which resulted from the fall in the price of crude oil. The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) led to drastic reductions in spending on education, leading to unpaid teacher salaries, degradation of education facilities at all levels and strikes in universities and schools.

He also highlighted the imbalances against girls in enrolment, attendance and completion rates in all levels of education in Nigeria, particularly in the northern parts of the country, due to a variety of socio-cultural and religious factors. It means that the rights of millions of children, especially girls, are violated. It is estimated that 7.3 million school age children are out of primary school majority of them girls.

Despite the universal basic education (UBE) scheme, Dr. Otive noted that funding for education is far below the UNESCO requirement. He said: "Studies have shown that education capital expenditure has declined sharply since the 1980s, and by 1988, the real value of capital expenditure on education was less than 17 percent of the average value of the 1980s. This trend has continued and the budgetary allocations to education have been less than 10 percent of the total federal budget from 1995 to 2006. It is interesting to note that while the expenditure on education has remained low, the average expenditure on administration was 21 percent of the total expenditure between 1995 and 1999 but grew to 31 percent between 1999 and 2003."

On access to education, in explaining why people do not go to school, he held that a study

conducted by Action Aid published in 2003 showed that the reason why pupils do not go to primary schools include costs of schooling, opportunity costs, illness and hunger, limited economic costs of education and low quality of schooling. The costs of schooling include the costs of books, stationery and basic equipment, uniforms, admission fees, registration and examination fees, contribution towards building and maintenance fund, construction fees, transportation, mid-day meals, Parents/Teachers Association (PTA) fees, sports fees, library fees and extra tuition fees. The opportunity cost for parents sending children to school is the children's time that could have been of economic importance to the family either in terms of income generating activities or in supporting the functioning of the household. Illness and hunger either of the children themselves or members of the family can prevent children from going to school. Limited economic benefits in terms of the fact that those who have completed school have no jobs do dissuade people from going to school. Finally, low quality of schooling particularly with regards to poor physical infrastructures, lack of motivated staff, poor utilization of resources, content of curriculum, nature of teaching methods and relationship of the school and teachers with the wider community can negatively impact on the urge to go to school.

Who get excluded from education? Children from the poorest families, the landless, working children, children of minority groups, children of migrant or pastoralist families, orphans, children affected by HIV/AIDS and those with physical or mental disabilities.

On the problem of poor infrastructures and lack of teaching and learning materials, Otive said a huge number of primary, secondary and tertiary school buildings and facilities are dilapidated and unfriendly to pupils. The environment of teaching and learning is not conducive. And how relevant is the curriculum? Otive noted: "It is a shame that 46 years after independence, our children are still being taught that Mungo Park discovered River Niger."! "Mungo Park might have discovered it for Europeans, but certainly not

for Nigerians who were fishing and collecting water from River Niger before Mungo park came to Nigeria."

Dr. Igbuzor made a number of recommendations including:
1. Support should be given to the establishment of School Management Committees:
2. Government should commit greater levels of funding to basic education
3. Mechanisms should be established to guarantee better utilization of fund and tracking of resources
4. Government should recruit more and better trained teacher.
5. Government should evolve a programme to ensure better remuneration and working conditions for teachers
6. The school system should place emphasis on core subjects, such as mathematics, science and language.
7. There is need for change in teaching style from the rigid rote learning procedure to a structured teaching procedure with a combination of direct instruction, guided practice and independent learning in a child friendly environment.
8. Government should make Learning materials including textbooks available, because these are the key because the quality and availability of learning materials affect what teachers can do.
9. Government should provide more facilities, in terms of refurbishing of classrooms and building of new ones, as well as provision of clean water and sanitation.
10. To make basic education relevant, the government should address the problem of tertiary education.
11. The government should halt the brain drain and turn it into gain through addressing the issues of remuneration, research, university autonomy and academic freedom in Nigerian tertiary institutions.
12. The home-grown School feeding programme should be given strong impetus.
13. The educational system should be geared

towards tackling the HIV/AIDs pandemic.
14. Government should strengthen coordination of the support from international development partners.
15. Government should make the education functional.

## Discussion

The following key issues, challenges and recommendations emanated from the discussion that followed the presentation:

- There is the dearth of quality teachers;
- Pretence on the part of the government, which insists that education must be compulsory and free but has not properly funded education. This has, in a way, put school administrators on the edge and in a serious mess;
- Government does not have all it takes to run properly education but the community has all it takes to sustain whatever government has put in place;
- There is the need to create stability in the Nigerian education system;
- The 6:3:3:4 systems remain the National Policy on Education. The stipulated 9 years of continuous education indicates that school child must not leave school until after the Junior Secondary School (JSS) during which he or she must have acquired certain functional skills;
- The challenge of education is a challenge for all and sundry – the community, the government, the civil society, etc.;
- Self-help and community mobilisation is an imperative; community participation is desirable to achieve quality education;
- Communities need to ensure that the vulnerable are not deprived of basic education;
- Education needs be valued by laying emphasis on issues bordering on gender and socio-cultural factors;
- Funding of education is crucial;
- The community has a role to play in asking questions about the expenditures in the management of education;
- Staff development/training is essential;
- Pedagogical style of teaching needs be reviewed to allow for workable and practical teaching approach;
- There is need to provide for recent textbooks;
- Facilities need be refurbished and up-graded; and

- Education needs be made functional to allow for meaningful development

## 6.2 Simultaneous Sessions

### Session 6.2.1

**Chairperson:** Dr Ubani C, (UBEC)

**Speaker:**
1. Doris P. Yaro, Gabasawa Women and Children Initiative: Confronting Generational Illiteracy, Poverty and Mental Degradation: A Case Study of the Shuwa Arab Project

*Note: Two papers were scheduled for presentation in this session but only one was presented. The second paper was* **Support to CSO Towards Achieving UBE in Nigeria** *by Andrew Memedu of Common Health Education Fund, ActionAid International.*

### Summary of Presentation

The speaker, Mrs. Doris P. Yaro, founded the organization in 1997 during her National Service (NYSC) year in Chukun Local Government. The Gabasawa Women and Children Initiative (GWCI), whose activities were being reported in this presentation, is a non-governmental organization dedicated to bringing marginalized and fringe families into the mainstream of society, giving hope to the hopeless and the forgotten, wherever the Project finds them.

The majority of the target beneficiaries are Shuwa Arabs, whose husbands and fathers dominate the informal security sector. Driven down south by desert encroachment, they live in uncompleted buildings to breed generations of poverty and illiteracy. Given their low status, they are unable to access many conventional social services.

The speaker pointed out that Shuwa Arabs women marry at very tender ages; they are mostly wives to the "Maiguards", live in uncompleted buildings with dirty environments; mostly housewives and hence live on husband's meagre income; highly reproductive and are made to bear children with impunity, and thus become promiscuous

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to make ends meet. In the same vein, Mrs. Yaro explained that Shuwa Arab children are uneducated, many are beggars on the streets, the boys become miscreants and later Maiguards; girls are exposed to promiscuity to combat lack, they are forced into marriage at tender ages, are carriers/victims of HIV/AIDS, VVF etc and they later become "Maiguard's" wives.

The Shuwa Arab project therefore was conceptualized to break the vicious cycle of poverty among the Shuwa Arabs, spread all over the Nigerian landscape. Their population, which is on the increase daily in Lagos alone, is in the region of millions. The aim of the project is to facilitate a partnership of individuals, private sector and community leaders who share common visions of making services in basic education available to children of poor, disadvantaged and marginalized parents and making productive skills available to poor, illiterate men and women. Part of what she suggested was that women empowerment and skill acquisition, economic enterprise or micro finance or poverty reduction. Indeed, the NGO has given scholarship to about sixty-eight children to be educated up to primary school level.

### Discussion

**Mr Goni Babagani** from Yobe State maintained that people identified as Shuwa Arabs by the Project could not be true Shuwa Arabs because the Shuwa Arab people are industrious and rich. The people identified are more likely to be from Chad. **Mr Ogasi Christopher** advised the presenter to make the loans the Project gives to the people a revolving one so that more people could benefit from them. **Mrs Rose** from Bauchi State and **Alhaji M.A. Oyelekan** of Lagos State advised the presenter to look beyond Ogudu area of Lagos and that there is the need to look more into the origin of these people.

**Mrs Oyebamire** from Kwara State asked about what would be the next thing for those children that are trained up to the primary school level, to which the presenter responded that other

donors could take their cases up from where they had stopped. A participant added that people should be encouraged to mobilise their communities to stir them into action towards various challenges of community development.

**Mrs. Yaro,** the presenter said her intention is to become the "Mother Theresa of Africa", and that she will use whatever God has given her as gifts to support and develop others especially the less privileged people. Commenting on this, **Mr J. Chukwu** from Imo State (Asa/Ohaji community) said though some NGOs and God-fearing people are trying their best in community development, the Government at all levels should provide for its citizens. The efforts of the community and of non-governmental organisations should complement that of the Government and should not be a substitute for it.

The participants reflected on the role of the government vis-à-vis that of community. Many participants reiterated the fact that many people are marginalized especially in terms of education whereby most of the good teachers left the public schools for private schools due to poor pay.

### Session 6.2.2

**Chairperson: Professor Bolanle Awe**

**Speakers:**
1. Mrs Azuka Menkiti, Action Aid: Grassroots Approach to Expansion of Access to UBE: Meeting the Gender Equity Agenda of UBE
2. Mr F. A Gbadamosi, Director of Community Development, Ogun State: Community Participation in the Promotion of Literacy and Child Friendly Education in Ogun State
3. Mrs Ngozi Ebere-Okoye, Abuja: Community Participation in Orphan Care and Widows Support in Apo and Karmo Communities of Abuja

*Note: While only two papers were scheduled for presentation at this session, three were presented. The third paper on*

and Widows Support in Apo and Karmo Communities of Abuja *by Mrs. Ngozi Ebere-Okoye was added at the point of presentation.*

### Summary of Presentations
**Paper 1: Grassroots Approach to Expansion of Access to UBE: Meeting the Gender Equity Agenda of UBE by Mrs. Azuka Menkiti**
Mrs Azuka Menkiti began by defining Basic Education, which she defined as early childhood care and education and nine years of formal education. The features of such education include:

- It is considered essential for everyone, ranging from functional literacy, primary and junior secondary education to vocational education and skills training.
- It equips people with the basic knowledge and skills to enable them earn a living and improve the quality of their lives.
- It provides children, youth and adults with the power to reflect, make choices and enjoy a better life.
- It is the foundation for acquiring other life skills and progressively raising the levels of knowledge to fulfil individual and social needs.

The paper also examined various international commitments on UBE noting that over the years efforts have been made globally to increase access to education for all citizens irrespective of sex, race, or social status. Several forums were created to commit the world in achieving education for all through universal and unhindered access. The declarations and agreements include:

- The 1948 **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** which asserted that "everyone has a right to education";
- The 1986 **African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights,** which states that "Every individual shall have the right to education"; and,
- 1990 **World Conference on Education for All** (EFA), which affirmed that education is a fundamental right for people, both women and men, of all ages throughout the world.

The EFA Conference placed basic education high on the development agenda. The conference committed the world to making education both available and accessible to all: children, youths, adults, the marginalised and the un-reached.

The speaker then reflected on the meaning and content of basic education and grassroots expansion of access to UBE. She said basic education is the foundation for knowledge and equips children and young people with the skills they need to proceed in life. The need for basic education is now generally recognised and commitments are now being made including commitments at the international level. At the national level, it has taken the form of UBE involving the provision of free basic education for every Nigerian child of school going age.

However, creating access has practical implications. It means education must be accessible and it must be non-discriminatory. This means great challenges for the system. The 2005 UBE Report of 2005 showed that literacy level has seriously deteriorated in the country particularly in relation to girl child education. About 6 million children of school going age are out of schools and about 70 per cent of these were girls. In the North West geopolitical zone of the country, the female to male ratio for out of school children is 3 to 1. Observations from the advocacy work of ActionAid in Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara States also confirm this. Thus, it is clear that the objectives of the UBE policy particularly on raising the level of girl child education in the country are still far from being realized.

The speaker noted that there are barriers to creating access to education for the girl child in terms of policy, religion and environmental beliefs. A lot of advocacy must be done to convince people to send their female children to school. The Project had to use drama sketches among other strategies. It was discovered that the men were afraid of losing their authority. Role models were also used to convey the message, as well as the formation of girl clubs, and the Government was encouraged to replicate these efforts. Another noticeable challenge is that there are no female teachers in the communities which makes difficult presenting female role models to the

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girl child and their reluctant parents. Thus, the Project had to work on gender rights and budget tracking.

Other problems include the fact that it is also difficult getting governments at all levels to meet their commitments; most of the teachers are not qualified, and the girls are seen as a source of income when they are used for hawking and other street trading. So, the parents are reluctant to release them. In the communities, child marriage is pervasive and keeps many of the girls away from school. Trying to get government to buy into the programme is difficult. In the process of all this, innocent girls are being denied access to education.

### Paper 2: Community Participation in the Promotion of Literacy and Child Friendly Education in Ogun State by Mr F. A Gbadamosi, Director of Community Development, Ogun State

This paper presented more cheering news with regard to the promotion of literacy and child friendly education. The highlights of the paper include:

- Self help projects provide stress free education for children in the community.
- Project target MDGs on literacy campaign, capacity building, and education for sustainable development.
- Community received government attention thereafter; additional blocks of six classrooms each constructed by state government.
- Necessary infrastructure, equipment and materials also supplied by state government.
- New transformer provided for the community.
- Healthy competition promote among adjourning communities that are also involved in self help activities.

### Paper 3: Community Participation in Orphan Care and Widows Support in Apo and Karmo Communities of Abuja, by Mrs Ngozi Ebere-Okoye, Abuja

This paper presented a gory picture of the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Apo and Karmo, two poor communities of Abuja, FCT. The aims of the social development project conducted from

2002 to 2006 in collaboration with Elizabeth Foundation, Finos Multi-Services Ltd, SNECOU Group and these communities, include:

1. Preventing further spread of HIV/AIDS by sensitizing and educating widows, orphans and vulnerable children;
2. Improving the general welfare and quality of life of the target group; and
3. Strengthening the capacity of communities to support OVCs and ensure sustainability of such support system.

The goal of the project is to help build the self esteem of widows and OVCs and help them to be self reliant.

It is interesting that Apo and Karmo are slums just beyond the nose of the legislators' quarters. But while government officials go there every day to collect taxes, there is no government presence in terms of schools, hospitals, water, access roads and other basic social amenities. It is also a haven for drug addicts and armed robbers who seek solace in such places. The people also do not believe in the use of condoms, making them vulnerable to the spread of HIV/AIDS.

The project intervention strategies involved advocacy visits to community leaders, executives of women and youth organizations and church leaders as well as intensive mobilization and sensitization of the two communities to solicit for support and active participation in orphan care and widows support project. To achieve this, a smart team of ten people for each community was formed.

### Discussion

Following the three presentations, a number of participants asked questions and made comments. Mr. Lanre Ajani challenged participants at the session and the conference in general to go back home and practice all that have been learnt about community development during the past few days. Ms. Edna Mattews-Njoku asked why the advocacy projects target men? Engineer Emeuwa N Uduma commented that unless the people are organised, the nation and the communities cannot get anywhere. Finally, Mr. Lawal Adu wondered if Mrs. Ngozi Ebere-Okoye would not

have to go back to Apo and Karmo and find out the effectiveness of the advocacy campaign that had been carried out.

The presenters took turns in responding to the issues raised pertaining to their presentations. Responding to the question about what the Project was doing with men, Mrs. Azuka Menkiti said, for the Project to be able to get girls into schools, it is necessary to deal with the men. The Project not only target men but also key people including village heads, imams, and other people who could influence the attitude and response of the people to the advocacy campaigns. From the surveys carried out, it has emerged that the Project has achieved 43 percent change in girl education in the areas where they were working.

Mr. F. A. Gbadamosi said it was necessary to get community development associations in place. He seized the opportunity to plead with the Federal Ministry of Information to ensure that the communities are thoroughly mobilized.

## 7. THEME 7: COMMUNITY CENTRED APPROACHES TO MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROMOTION

### 7.1 PLENARY SESSION SEVEN

| | |
|---|---|
| Chairperson: | Dr. Andrew Arkutu (former Country Representative, UNFPA, Nigeria & Member, CLP Board of Directors) |
| Speaker: | Dr (Mrs) Galadanchi, Head, Department of Gynaecology, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano |
| Title of Paper: | Community Centred Approaches to Maternal and Child Health Promotion |
| Discussants: | 1. Dr Sehu Sule, Provost of Health Technology, Kaduna |
| | 2. Professor Friday Okonofua, Special Adviser to the President on Maternal and Child Health |

## Summary of Presentation

The principal focus of the discussion during this session was on *reducing maternal and infant mortality in Nigeria*. The session started with some preliminary comments by the chairperson. The chairperson noted that:

- If you want to know how civilized a society is, examine the way it treats the women.
- Women are dying because society has not decided that women's time has come. Women are not dying because of mysterious diseases that we know.
- The health of women and the general population are far too important to be left in the hands of the medical doctors and modern health workers alone.
- There is increase in maternal death that can be brought to check through drugs. At the same time the communities have their roles to play in preventing maternal death. The medical service alone is not capable to make safe motherhood. The communities have their own roles to play.

The plenary speaker began her presentation by reflecting on a number of socio-economic indicators and the possible effect on maternal and child mortality health in the Nigeria:

- Per capita income N35,340(US$310)
- Access to health facilities      63.5%
- Access to potable water    54.1%
- School attendance        55.1%

She stated that in Africa, especially in Nigeria, the average citizen stands the risk of dying from so many factors. She stressed further that there are disparities in Maternal and Child Mortality rates, even in Nigeria. It varies from one geographical zone to the other. Maternal and Child Mortality rate is one of the major indices of development in the country; death of a woman connotes death of the whole family. Death of a woman can also quicken the death of her children. She thereafter gave the various causes of maternal and child mortality as including:

- Women's low status;

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- Lack of information and inadequate knowledge about signs of complications of pregnancy and danger signals during labour;
- Cultural practices that restrict women from seeking health care;
- Inability to access health facilities;
- Poor citing of health facilities;
- Poor roads and communication network;
- Poor community support;
- Delay between arriving and receiving care at the health facility;
- Inadequate skilled attendants (manpower). Lack of competent hands to handle complications; and
- Inadequate equipment and supplies of Health Facilities with Midwives. For example, lack of blood in case of blood transfusion for some patients.

She noted that other factors contributing to maternal mortality include unsafe abortions (with about 610,000 per year), high prevalence of malaria, high rate of malnutrition (16%), and HIV/AIDS pandemic (4.4%).

The speaker then pointed out that various interventions had been mounted in past at national and international levels and that there are existing policies, guidelines and programmes related to maternal health issues, all of which should be faithfully implemented immediately and nationwide. However, apart from official initiatives, a successful tackling of the problem would require community involvement and efforts at improving the social and infra-structural amenities in the rural areas. There is also need for strong commitment to maternal and newborn survival and health by political leaders and decision makers at national, state and local levels; and realistic and appropriate investment in women's education, health and economic empowerment implementation framework with clearly defined supervision, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

She suggested that the way forward for the country is to lead the fight against maternal and newborn death and disability. This will enable women to fully enjoy their rights; fully contribute to the social, economic and political

development of Nigeria. There must be development of Community Midwives to mobilize their communities for support in safe delivery, while the referral system must be strengthened. She concluded that there must be education for the people and empowerment of women.

## Discussion

The discussion was opened by the Special Adviser to the President on Maternal and Child Health, **Professor Friday Okonofua**, who buttressed and amplified many of the points raised in the paper of the plenary speaker. Professor Okonofua gave practical examples of some of the challenges highlighted by the speaker and how lives have been lost needlessly in the process. He added that there should be accountability and transparency in executing various health programmes and that there must be proper awareness of health issues in various communities. He stresses further there must be community education in order to remove ignorance and misinformation about MCH. People should be informed of health-seeking avenues.

The second discussant, **Dr Sule Sehu**, the Provost of the College of Health Technology, Kaduna, opined that information about the patients stays with the people themselves. He added that all people can participate in motivating and mobilizing for healthy living and that social component of health should be taken into consideration to ensure sound MCH promotion. To this end the community should be involved in MCH promotion at all levels; and there must be collaboration of the community with the government or any other donors.

In the general discussion that followed, the following key issues were raised>
- Educated people should strive to impact upon their communities by spreading knowledge to the community people and help their people to overcome the problems that have their root in ignorance;
- There is need for participation in how all health programmes and projects run;

- It must never be assumed that the people have known certain things as this could lead to the lowering of guards; indeed, even if they already know, there is no harm in emphasis; and,
- The nation must mobilise as a people and mobilise all resources in the country to work towards reducing maternal mortality to zero.

In closing, participants concluded that, to guarantee the right of Nigerian women to health and life, they (i.e., women) must have access to quality reproductive health services, including skilled attendance at childbirth. There must be collaboration of the community with the government or any other donors. Finally, the social components of health should be taken into consideration to ensure sound Maternal and Child Health and the community should be involved in Maternal and Child Health promotion at all levels.

### 7.2    Simultaneous Sessions
### Sessions 7.2.1 and 7.2.2

### Chairperson:   Dr Shehu Sule

### Speakers:
1. Ngozi Iwere and Anne Ojidoh, Community Life Project, Lagos: Promoting Family Health Particularly Maternal and Child Health Using the Marriage Preparatory Course of FBOs
2. Onoride Ezire and Dr. Olaronke Ladipo, Society for Family Health: Community Based Organisation as Agent of Sustaining Development Efforts: The Society for Family Health Experience in SS Nigeria
3. Lawrence O.C. Uzoekwe: Reducing High Rate of Population Growth in Nigeria Through Community-Based Volunteer Strategy
4. Dr. Clara Ladi Ejembi, Ms. Tamani Yusuf, Mrs. Lami Bature and Mrs. Mairo Muazu: Healthy Women, Healthy Community: Developing Reproductive Health Communication Materials with and for Women

**Note**: Due to time constraint, it became necessary to combine the final simultaneous sessions into one. Thus, the papers scheduled for presentation in the two sessions were taken together in a plenary like session that permitted participants to listen to all the presentations rather than being made to choose between sessions.

### Summary of Presentations
**Paper 1**: **Promoting Family Health Particularly Maternal and Child Health Using the Marriage Preparatory Course of FBOs by Ngozi Iwere and Anne Ojidoh**
This presentation described an aspect of the programming experience of Community Life Project, an Isolo, Lagos-based non-governmental organisation. The programme involves the use of the marriage preparatory programme of Catholic parishes to promote maternal and child health and family Health in general.  In order to strengthen the capacity of the parish to run a successful and effective programme CLP entered into a partnership with St. Mary's Church, Isolo to provide technical assistance.

The objectives of the pre-marriage courses are to build healthy families through empowerment, prevent separation and divorce and to promote temporal and spiritual fulfilment. Beside these stated objectives, CLP sought to use the pre-marriage course to protect the rights of women and children, promote gender equality, reduce infant and maternal morbidity and mortality and promote sexual and reproductive health rights.

CLP and St. Mary's Parish mutually agreed to teach 8 topics of which the two parties contributed equal number of topics. Subsequently, instructors were appointed and oriented on the content and mode of delivery of the papers. As the programme gained acceptance and to conform to the guidelines laid down by the archdiocese the number of topics was increased to 16. The course is taught in cycles of 16 weeks. Attendance is mandatory for intending couples and couples are not permitted to wed in the church unless they attend at least 90% of the course. The course is reviewed after every cycle and a general review is done yearly at the instructors' retreat. The reviews involve the revision of curriculum, the introduction of maternal and

child health and other topics, training of instructors and regular reviews. The programme has afforded a number of lessons and from the reviews, it is clear that the marriage course is a viable and sustainable channel for promoting family health, well being and gender equity. It is cost effective and it is preventive in thrust.

The success of the programme can be seen in the testimonies given by beneficiaries of the programme. The success is also indicated by CLPs decision to allow the church to own the programme. By allowing the church to claim total ownership of the programme it has guaranteed that responsibility for sustenance and continuity rests with the church. The paper recommends that FBOS pre-marriage course programme should be used for creating and sustaining awareness on healthy family living.

### Paper 2: Community Based Organisation as an Agent of Sustaining Development Efforts: The Society for Family Health Experience in SS Nigeria by Onoride Ezire and Dr. Olaronke Ladipo

The goal of the PSRHH/CIHPAC programme is to enhance sexual and reproductive heath among poor and vulnerable groups in Nigeria. It is also aimed at creating a favourable environment for sustainable behaviour change. The target is the high risk members of society such as female sex workers, transport workers particularly long distance drivers, military personnel and the youth.

About twenty-one communities were identified; CBOs were made to intervene in 15, while SFH intervened directly in others. The mode of intervention was the peer education plus (PEP) model. Difficulties were experienced in the course of these interventions. It was observed that in communities where CBOs were engaged more persons adopted positive behaviour, development efforts were holistic and communities were equipped and empowered. As a way forward, community development should be community driven and efforts be made to develop the capacities of CBOs.

The presenters concluded that, from the experience of this project, community

participation through community based organisations help to develop local capacities and in turn create the basis for the sustainability of health programmes.

### Paper 3: Reducing High Rate of Population Growth in Nigeria Through Community-based Volunteer Strategy by Lawrence O.C. Uzoekwe

This paper sought to draw public attention to the community–based volunteer strategy as a cost effective and sustainable approach to reducing high rate of population growth in Nigeria. Nigeria as a country is experiencing fast population growth. Nigeria's population which was 88,514,501 in 1991 rapidly grew to an alarming 140,003,542 persons in 2006 with annual growth rate of 3.2%. The consequence of this is that population dynamics indicate that Nigeria has attained a population doubling time of less than 25 years as compared with a doubling time of 100 years in most developed and high income countries. Nigeria's population shows a preponderance of young persons under 15 years of age and who make up about 44% of the total population.

The socio-economic effects of rapid population growth are high dependency ratio, high crime rate pressure on and possible collapse of social infrastructure. Limited access to welfare services, high unemployment, mass poverty among others but especially the rise in the number of children in crisis.

The paper described a community volunteer as a person who freely and willingly or enthusiastically offers time, skill for the advancement of other people in the community. The community volunteer is expected to carryout advocacy, organise population and family planning education, voluntary fertility education etc. Volunteers are to be trained in aspects of reproductive health education, unplanned parenthood, fertility, regulation, the use of contraceptives, gender relations in the context of family planning etc. The volunteers are recruited from FBOs, civil society groups, age-grade associations and educational institutions, professional and development associations and town unions.

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The community's role is to arrive at roles for community volunteers, decide on the criteria for accepting a person as a volunteer, decide the type of and duration of training for the volunteers, how to sustain continued interest in the activities of the volunteers and engage in periodic review and evaluation of the services of community volunteers.

The results or outcome of the activities of the community volunteers are the eradication of socio-cultural factors and practices which inhibit fertility regulation, awareness of the effects of unplanned reproduction, removing unfounded fears associated with family planning, drop in adolescent pregnancy and marriage, increase in the use of contraceptives, reduction in child and maternal deaths and community ownership of reproductive and sexual health programme.

### Paper 4: Healthy Women, Healthy Community: Developing Reproductive Health Communication Materials with and for Women by Dr. Clara Ladi Ejembi, Ms. Tamani Yusuf, Mrs. Lami Bature and Mrs. Mairo Muazu

The paper sets the context in which the study was carried out. The paper draws attention to the poor state of women's health. In the view of the paper women's health have been generally neglected. The focus on women's health has tended to emphasis family planning, infant mortality, etc. Their marginalized status compels them to resign to fate and at the same time it makes them unable to articulate issues concerning their low health status.

The paper further noted that gender issues do not feature in the health sector and contends that women can improve and sustain good health if they are exposed to simple information guides on wealth matters. The authors argue that it is important to reach women with health information because they lack information; also the burden of maintaining family health rests on them, and their status is an obstacle to accessing health information, etc. What women need, therefore, is the right kind of information.
The studies were carried in Hunkuyi, Rumi and Makarfi communities. All these are rural and predominantly Hausa-speaking Moslem

communities in Kaduna State. In the development of communication materials for reaching the women, a number of steps were taken. A qualitative research was designed, the findings of which were communicated; a multidisciplinary communication team was established and, more importantly, partnerships were developed with the communities.

Members of the community made significant contributions at all stages of the development of the materials. Support was elicited through visits, meetings and obtaining the understanding of the community at every stage. Basically the vehicle of communication was by means of illustration and radio programme. The story was woven around a victim who symbolised the health crises women faced in the communities studied.

The study showed that the methodology adopted conveyed a sense of ownership by the community and gender aspects of health was revealed. It was also shown that visual means of communication can offer gender power relations. The challenge is how to replicate and sustain the programme.

Empowering women with appropriate and gender responsive health communication materials for positive health care seeking behaviour is central to achieving the MDG health goals.

### Discussion
The discussion session witnessed a number of questions on various presentations. Mr. Ekanem Inyang commented that the paper on population growth in Nigeria did not point out measures for reducing population. Mr. Inyang said when compared to a country like China, Nigeria is not an overpopulated country. In his opinion, Nigeria does not have a population problem. He was more concerned with the challenge posed by corruption which he saw as the main problem in Nigeria. His proposed solution is the enhancement of the welfare of the rural people.
Mrs. Olusola Ige of COWAN remarked that if the First National Conference on Community

country needs to go back to the drawing board and take a cue from COWAN by partnering with community people. In her opinion, it does not cost much to engage in partnership with the community.

Mr. Abubakar commented that CLP was able to measure the success of its programme by the testimonies that followed and not against any preconceived survey or baseline study. He was of the opinion that practical results count far more than statistical presentations of impact. When families are happy and united and are tackling their challenges, these speak far more than the outcome of any baseline survey.

On the presentation by Lawrence Uzoekwe, Remy Chidi Chukwunyere requested the speaker to explain how community volunteers will help to reduce population. In response, Mr. Uzoekwe re-emphasised the issues raised in his paper concerning the role of community volunteer in educating the community on the importance of taking measures that will curb rapid population growth. He insisted that Nigeria is overpopulated.

Responding to the various issues raised, Mrs. Ngozi Iwere said that for CLP, the pre-marital course project was not conceived as a "scientific" one. The objective was to create awareness and engender new and equitable gender relations among Catholic couples. CLP believes that fostering a healthy spiritual life among couples and promoting gender related issues is not contradictory. Therefore there no need for a baseline at the beginning of the exercise. The issue of testimonies arose 5 years into the process in order to assess the impact of the project on the beneficiaries.

## REPORTS OF ROUND TABLES AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

### 1. Round Table on the Role of the Media in Community Development
Date: Tuesday, 30 January, 2007

### Session Summary
This session was coordinated jointly by Mr James Akpandem, Managing Editor of Daily

Independent and Hajiya Bilikisu Yusuf of Citizen Communications Ltd. The session was organized to share experiences of cooperation and to promote the process of partnership between the media and the communities. The discussion was preceded by the presentations of the two senior media personnel, presentations which necessarily engendered comments from the other participants.

In his presentation, **Mr James Akpandem** started by asking what was supposed to be the role of the media in the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals. His opinion was that basically, the role of the media is that of information, entertainment and education. He felt that the media had been discharging its responsibilities in terms of providing information, especially as it has brought to the front burner various issues of importance. The question to ask thus, is, how far has the media gone in mobilising the people in the community for development.

One important element of community development is creating awareness, such that ideas emanate from the people. **Mr. Akpanden** disclosed that he once attended a seminar where someone was talking about a community where people have not gone to school, making it impossible for them to galvanize their thoughts. He said thhe media over time has been useful in giving information about issues beneficial to the communities and they can also help in bringing these issues to the table. They can also identify the stakeholders who can make these possible. Those days there were community mobilization in terms of building town halls, schools.

The media also play a role in terms of identifying models. It also has a responsibility of drawing government's attention to what it is expected to do in specific instances. It also embarks on the deliberate creation of programmes meant to galvanize their communities. The government used to have a film unit and public enlightenment campaign as part of the process of mobilizing the people on issues but all that seem to have become moribund. When we talk of partnership, it is not necessarily in terms of money but giving space

and airtime to the people on issues that may affect them.

**Hajiya Bilikisu Yusuf** began her presentation by asking: "What is development journalism all about?" One school says all you need to do is to report the news according to the dictates of the 5Ws: Who, What, Why, Where, and When, The other school of thought says it is about setting the agenda and issues of development. In the presentation, Hajiya Bilkisu was keen to emphasise the idea of development journalism.

She used herself as an example of involvement by media practitioners in community development. She said, if she were to be asked as an agenda setter what had been her contribution, she would recall what she had gone through during the past few days in terms of voters' registration. There were 522 people on the queue by yesterday. The registration officer had no ink and was expecting her machine to be changed. The officer actually said she would not come to work because there was no ink. If she were a health reporter, she would take up the issue of the MDGs. The environment and education reporters are also at the centre of reporting these issues. She pointed out that usually when there are commissioning ceremonies for projects, the media would report the issues and that would be the end of it. however, a development journalist would go beyond that level of reporting.

She noted that the commercialization of the media has also impacted negatively on the community development agenda as it has receded development issues to the background: the people who can pay for airtime have virtually taken over the media. The implication is that only politicians and organizations like Shell, Globacom etc, that can pay and be heard.

What then is the way out? **Hajiya Bilkisu** said the viable option is the establishment of community radios for mass mobilization of the communities. She said when she was growing up, the Ministry of Information used to play the role of mobilization but now the ministry is crippled; the people are ostracised from the media and the ministry of information is crippled. She then asked rhetorically: Where do we go

from here?

During the general discussion session that followed the presentation, many participants raised issues and questions for deliberation. CLP Project Director, **Mrs. Ngozi Iwere**, asked a series of questions: Is it possible for *Daily Independent* to have training for its reporters on development journalism? Is it possible to change mindsets? Is it possible to begin to ask journalists in your organization to ask questions? Is it possible for your medium to have a policy not to commercialise news?

**Mrs. Azuka Menkiti** of Action Aid International Nigeria wondered if there were any representatives of NTA or FRCN, the largest television network and the largest radio network respectively in the country, at the conference. Between them, the two stations have the capacity to reach the largest number of people at any time but it is a reflection of the times that the two organisations did not consider it important for them to cover the national conference on community development as they were probably more preoccupied with giving press coverage to programmes that can pay for the airtime. **Mrs. Menkiti** said development projects do not feature on the priority of the media. She pointed that she was working on a project on marginalized girls but she doubted if many people claiming to be development workers have visited these communities. For the people to be aware of ongoing community development efforts there is a lot to be done by the media. She opined that organisations concerned with the mobilisation of communities for development should not be charged exorbitant prices to access airtime and they should not be expected to bribe media practitioners in order to gain access to publicity for their efforts.

**Mr. Tunde Aremu** of Action Aid International Nigeria disclosed that he was formerly a journalist but is now a development worker; so, he is able to address the issues from the point of view of an insider on both sides. **Mr. Aremu** said there is a fundamental problem with the media consequent upon challenges posed by the country's economic situation. He pointed out that in the print media, not more than four

media houses are solvent. In other countries, the media is subsidized to support development issues. He then asked: What happened during the Abacha years, when many of the media houses were proscribed? How many people took care of those journalists who were thrown out of their jobs and had families to take care of? He said the political class might have failed us but what the country needs is to ensure credibility for the political process. Taking up the issue of accountability goes to enhance the credibility of the media. He was curious to know how the policy of "Let Them Pay" (LTP) has affected an organization like Daily Independent.

**Mr. James Akpanden** responded that when people talk about journalists and the kind of things that they do, it is good to remember that journalists operate within an environment. The larger society is highly corrupt and people do not want to do things properly. Those who practice journalism are also a product of this highly corrupt society. They are not from Mars. We try to ensure that we sanitise the house. If we get a reporter involved in dirty deals, we sack him. The question, however, is how do you monitor what they do behind the backs of their managers? There is a link between the man giving the bribe to receive media coverage and the journalists that take. If they go and report an event and do not write the stories and you call the editor, they will be called to order.

Also, media houses are usually owned by businessmen who look at the bottom line. In the print media, you look at copy sales and advert. In the electronic media, they look at airtime. Media houses try to accommodate community development issues through slots. He said that at the Daily Independent, eight (8) pages are devoted to Metro section which looks at people. In addition, 16 pages are devoted to regional issues. Local names are used for these pages in order to identify with the people. The paper also has a slot for development and this is solely devoted to the coverage of NGOs. With regard to the National Conference, the newspaper devoted about a half page to reporting the new and also was running editorials, features, etc, on issues relating to the conference. He pointed out that newspapers are commercial ventures. For advertisement purposes, a black and white

page at Daily Independent costs N349,000. Thus, if the newspaper gives an issue or organisation a one-page coverage, the paper has given that organisation N349,000. He disclosed that running a media organisation is an expensive business and the Daily Independent spends between N50 and N70 million a month to keep the organization afloat.

**Mr. Akpanden** said the bottom line as always is staying solvent and this is dependent on how much sale a paper is able to make in a day. But this is also a function of space. No media house can report every event that is taking place in the country; it needs parts of its space for advertisement that would subsidise costs.

Media houses also face the challenge of lack of skills in development work reporting. At Daily Independent, while it is true that journalists can always be moved around to cover different beats, there is no training programme for journalists on development issues. The financial capacity of the media house determines so much. **Mr. Akpanden** then counselled NGOs to make their media units very effective and be able to issue releases that media houses can use straight. Thus, the challenge is for all sides.

**Mrs. Ngozi Iwere, CLP Project Director,** intervened at this stage and stated that some of the central issues that have emerged from the discussion at the session were that there is a need for NGOs and development workers generally to get in touch with news media editors when stories emanating from the sector are not used. Corroborating the statement of Mr. Akpanden, she said there is a strong need to strengthen the media units of the various NGOs involved in community development work.

**Mr. Sunday Joshua** from Benue State LEEMP recounted the experience of his own organisation which had paid for a slot on prime time national television during the 9 o'clock news but that the story was never used. He said while the CLP had done a lot with donors funds, the same could not be said for the government in terms of support for community based development work.

Other comments were made by participants on various issues. **Mrs. Ngozi Iwere** said if all development workers and NGOs refused to give bribes, media houses would publish their stories without giving preconditions. **Ms. Augusta Akparanta-Emenogu** of ActionAid said whether we like it or not, only very few media houses pay good salaries to their staff. This means that the journalists will have to explore other sources for survival. She asked: how many slots are we creating for development issues in the media? She then affirmed that you cannot ask people to stand on their own and prevent them from generating funds to run their organisations and that there is a need to train development journalists particularly on women and children related issues. **Mr. Musa Rabiu Mukhtar**, a journalist from Katsina state said not many people fully appreciate the problems confronting practising journalists. He said many journalists have lost their jobs because of news stories about people of influence, and because many journalists are not well paid, they are prone to the brown envelope syndrome.

**Mr. Evan Ben-Wari**, NLNG, said at the NLNG, they do not belief in paying for news. He said the Managing Director wanted the activities of the organisation to be reported daily but he is against making payment for news. The hard reality, he pointed out, is that to get the required publicity it would be necessary to make payment. He preferred to categorise that as "commercial news".

**Mr. Galadima Audu Simon**, Fadama 11 Project, Taraba State, believed that the consolidation process that took place in the banking industry should also be extended to the media. He was of the opinion that the problems being experienced could be attributed to the fact that media houses are not strong enough to do their work. He asked: Do the media really need the brown envelope to do its work? And, how many journalists visit the rural areas? He said the journalists only stay in the government houses where they get juicy allowances.

**Mr. Abikan Shuaib**, OKLNG, Lagos, believed that journalists need a lot of incentives. This should not only come in terms of brown envelope; there is need to train them in different fields including community development and award ceremonies can be organised for them.

In closing the session, participants agreed that the issues cannot be resolved in one single session as the one being held at the conference and that there is need for continuing dialogue to ensure that development work in general, and community based development activities get appropriate coverage in the Nigerian media. The moderator then thanked all participants for their contributions.

## 2. Special Meeting on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

**Tuesday, 30 January, 2007 Venue: FCT Meeting room**

The session was moderated by **Tom Odemwingie** (ActionAid Nigeria). The session was widely attended by representatives of the corporate organisations participating at the conference and of host communities among others. The **objectives**, as proposed by the moderator, were to:

1. Attempt a definition of the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR)
2. Share information among participants on
   a. various approaches to the operationalisation of CSR
   b. examples of successful interventions and positive outcomes
   c. opportunities
   d. Challenges (accountability, sustainability and replication)

*Definition*
Different definitions were proffered, depending on the background of contributors. These ranged from "the responsibility of an organization to its host community for harmony," "A moral duty", to "a symbiotic relationship between the organisation and the community". As far as Chevron is concerned, the idea is for corporate responsibility without the "social" element.

*Approaches*
Representatives of different organizations

Tom Odemwingie (R) chairing the session on Corporate Social Responsibility

present highlighted CSR initiatives in their host communities as summarized below:

1. A collaborative project between NLNG, SPDC and Mobil on Bonny Utilities Ltd that has filled the gap in electricity supply in the Bonny area;

2. Chevron integrates its corporate responsibility into its Global Memorandum of Understanding, which



Yomi Fawehinmi of Chevron (standing) making a point during the session on CSR.

is tied to its overall business plan. The Port Harcourt Refinery is supporting a skills acquisition programme aimed at producing human resources from the local environment to supply its human resource needs

However, while acknowledging that private sector organizations, particularly in the oil sector, were beginning to address community needs, representatives of communities felt that these organisations need to do more. They were critical of government's lack of commitment to coordination of corporate social responsibility processes. There was also the feeling that government has tended to surrender its role as duty bearer to the private sector.

Discussants then made the following recommendations for better corporate responsibility:

1. Private organizations need to be more transparent in dealing with host communities.

2. There is need for greater involvement of host community inputs into corporate social responsibility initiatives.

3. Private organizations, even while subscribing to the principle of equal opportunity, need to incorporate affirmative action into their recruitment policies to create space for members of host communities to become involved in their operations.

*Cross section of participants at session on*

### 3. Special Session on PLWHAs and the Community

Wednesday, 31 January 2007; FCT Room

Chair/moderator:    Tom Odemwingie

Lead speaker:    Dr Pat Matemilola, National Coordinator of the Network of Persons Living With HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NEPWHAN).

The issue of stigmatization of, and discrimination against, persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) was identified as a critical factor in the pandemic, with consensus built around the importance of individual action in community response to the challenge.

The group noted that each community is infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The response of most communities to the HIV/AIDS challenge is undermined by lack of knowledge and stigmatization. Strong advocacy, education and mobilization are needed to promote community involvement in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The greater challenge lies more in grassroots work than in participation in conferences. It was

necessary for participants to think more about what to do back in their communities.

New PLWHAs were invited to the National Conference on Community Development both as a form of psychological support and to provide inspiration to them to adopt a positive attitude to life.

PLWHAs' conditions continue to be compounded not only by cultural beliefs but also by unwholesome practices by health professionals. PLWHAs have also been discriminated against by educational institutions, employers, on

It was alleged that in the FCT, PLWHAs are denied dialysis services.

### Recommendations

1. Stronger partnerships and linkages will make community-driven efforts more effective in dealing with HIV.
2. National awareness efforts should imbibe in PLWHAs the need for them to take their destinies in their hands.
3. More IEC materials should be deployed to communities.
4. Incentives, including empowerment, should be given to PLWHAs to break their silence.
5. The capacity of community-based organizations should be strengthened to plan and implement strategies to respond to HIV/AIDS.

### 4.    Special Session on the CLP Model

Date:   Wednesday, 31 January, 2007

Chairperson: Professor Bolanle Awe, Chair, CLP Board of Directors

Speaker:    Mrs. Ngozi Iwere, Project Director, Community Life Project

The Chairperson of the session, Professor Bolanle Awe, who is also chairperson of the CLP Board of Directors and an accomplished academic and woman activist opened discussion with a few preliminary remarks. Professor Awe said CLP was established in 1992 and has designed a useful model in community driven development and service delivery which is being implemented at Isolo Local Government Area in Lagos. It is so successful that it is already being replicated elsewhere. CLP has documented its activities and is willing to share it with all stakeholders as it is doing at this conference. It is revealing, interesting and as an integrated project, and it is impacting on the lives in various ways.

## Youth Drama Presentation

The presentation of the CLP model by its Project Director was preceded by a drama presentation by the Drama Unit of the CLP Youth Club titled "True love waits and True love wins". This was a demonstration of an element of the methodology employed by CLP in passing its message across to target audiences. The focus of this particular drama, which featured a lot of drumming and dancing, was sexuality education and goal setting in life for youths.



**Professor Bolanle Awe**

## CLP MODEL

The drama presentation was followed by the presentation of Mrs. Ngozi Iwere, CLP's Executive Director, on the CLP model. Mrs. Iwere introduced the model and said two important paradigm shifts informed the development of the model:

- Holistic definition of good health
- Value of social capital

According to Mrs. Iwere, the **key thrust of the CLP model is b**uilding sustained partnerships with existing organizations and institutions wherever the model is applied. The CLP model is dependent on working with partner groups and institutions and the organisation currently has 67 partners that include 20 community associations, 9 health facilities, 8 hotels, 25 schools, 4 tutorial centres, 1 traditional ruling council. The focus of its activities includes sexuality education, life skill education, counselling and referral services, policy advocacy.

The **key features of the model** include:

- Community participation and ownership.
- Taking programmes to the people wherever they exist.
- Use of diverse and culturally appropriate communications methods.
- Joint planning, implementation and review of programmes.
- Participatory monitoring and evaluation

A quantitative estimation of the outcome of CLP's activities confirmed that the organisation has reached and served 85,549 people in the partner organizations with which it is working over the past several years.

The experience has yielded a number of **lessons** including the following:

- Partnership building is slow, painstaking and challenging but is required if the model is to be successfully applied;
- Working with CBOs requires political maturity;
- Programme staff must be able to

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transcend ethnic and religious prejudices if they are to relate with and serve the communities;
- Partnership building requires a sound knowledge of the community;
- Referencing is critical to cultivating partnerships; and,
- For sustainability partnerships should be built with the institutions and not with individual members.

For the model developed by CLP to work successfully, it must be based on relationships and this relationship must be built on a number of values. The CLP model has been built around a number of core values and it has been sustained on a number of principles including:
- Authenticity
- Mutual respect
- Commitment to giving partners ownership of the programme
- Strengthening the unity and cohesion within the partner organizations

## Success factors
In a recent evaluation of the CLP Model which involved partners and other stakeholders, the **five elements to the success of the model** were identified as:
1. Community ownership and partnership in the initiation, design, planning and implementation of educational programmes;
2. Working through existing community structures and institutions;
3. The location of the implementing organisation in the community and its familiarity with local processes;
4. The gradual building of relationships of mutual trust and respect starting with initial referrals, through regular programmes and informal meetings and counselling; and
5. Flexibility and adaptability of the organisation and its programmes, tailoring programmes to fit the social, cultural and religious values of partners groups.

The presentation was followed by a discussion session in which participants made comments and observations, and asked questions.

**Dr. Mohammed Bello Shittu** of Bayero University, Kano, expressed satisfaction with the CLP model and how it has worked. He was keen, however, to understand the process of working with organisations particularly the element of the model that says that the model works with existing organisations and does not seek to create new ones. His question is that, in a situation where CLP's activities motivate others to establish new organizations, are they considered new or existing organizations? He thought that CLP should work and strengthen all organizations whether new or old.

The question was followed by another one raised by a lady who asked the Project Director to explain the source of funding for CLP projects since the Project Director has said that the organisation is not donor driven.

While responding to the questions raised, Mrs. Ngozi Iwere pointed out CLP was the first organisation to address the issue of HIV/AIDS by integrating it into its reproductive health projects. At the time CLP started there was no baseline data. It was thus impossible for the organisation to measure its success. With regard to working with community organisations, Mrs. Iwere said any community in Nigeria has a governance structure with which CLP and organisations seeking to replicate its model can engage with.

With regard to donor funding, Mrs. Iwere said the World Health Organisation was first to offer funds to CLP but the organisation turned it down because the conditions attached to the grant was not suitable. CLP has donors who believe in its model such as the Ford foundation and MacArthur Foundation, and they have been funding CLP and its programmes and activieis. Communities have resources which CLP taps and it does not have to stretch itself and become donor dependant. CLP works with donors if the particular donor's agenda fits CLP's own agenda.

The **Chair** of the session said the conference is a forum that underscores the need to be self reliant and not be donor driven. Some CLP partners in the hall commended CLP for all it

has done for them. They identified themselves and their organisations. They are:

1. Alhaja B. A. Sunmonu, Market Men & Women Association
2. Mrs. Mary Matanmi, Hairdresser Association
3. Mrs. Muinat Mustapha Al-Himat, Muslim Society
4. Deaconess A. O. Olatunde N. U. T, Lagos
5. Mrs Agnes Ofugara, CLP volunteer, Sapele
6. Evang. Ediru Esther, volunteer, Sapele
7. Mrs. R. O. Okotie, volunteer, Sapele
8. Mrs. T. A. Sulaiman, CACOM Isolo
9. Samuel Omoniyi, N.U.T Oshodi
10. G. A. Akinwande C.D.A. Ishagdedo
11. S. A Oladimeji CACOM, FBO, Lagos
12. Uche Iwunze CACOM Lagos (Market Leader)

**5. Special Session on the PEP (Peer Education Plus) Model**

**Date: Wednesday, 31 January, 2007**

**Presenters:** Dr. Augustine Ankomah, Obi Ohiagbo and Dr. Omokhudu Idogbo
**Organization: SFH and ActionAID International**

**Introduction**
The presenters started by asking the question why PEP model since we have being practicing peer education (PE)? PE is a model of BCC that utilizes peer group for education about a health issue. It has been frequently used for health education about HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. PEP is introduced as an improvement on PE because, PE was practiced with limited evidence-based HIV prevention technique, the need to reach higher proportion of more at risk individuals and the need to apply to wider population. The PEP differs from the PE in the following ways:
- It consists of three distinct phases: entry, intervention and phase-out.
- Clearly defined most at risk group
- Peer educators carried out a structured peer education session with the populace
- Clear scale-up strategies and community hand-over phase mechanism

- Have trained staff to train and support the peer educators
- Experiences gained are disseminated through the PEP network
- Evidenced based monitoring models
- Collaboration with a CBO

It was explained that the PEP was developed through a quasi-experimental study within an interval of 18 months using 13 communities each randomly selected as control and experimental groups. The target groups used for the PEP were boys and girls out of school, mechanic apprentices, sales girls, truck drivers, and female sex workers. Peer educators were selected randomly but based on interest and ability of persons to command some influence among their peers and in collaboration with the selected CBO. The peer educators were supported and had several sessions with their peers in a selected comfortable venue.

The **result** of the programme showed there was an improved level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, VCT, and positive behavioural change (statistically significant). There was also an improved manpower capacity of the CBO in the community about peer education. The programme was taken over by the community through the CBO.

The model has a number of **challenges:**
- Youths that indicated interest in the PEP model were not allowed by their masters to attain the programme, so the masters were themselves trained first. They then became supervisors of the youths and even remind them if they forget to attain the sessions.
- Some of the youths were asking for money, gifts and other forms of tokenism. This was solved by explaining to them that it is their programme and do not need any one to give them money. Though some were given minimal gift items such as biros and jotters.
- In cases of very mobile groups as the female sex workers, their training is shorten so that they can have as much as possible before they leave to another place and are encouraged to continue in the new

places they go.

It was **concluded** that PEP has actually added value to the practice of peer education and can be more widely applied to all types of communities, as exemplified by its successes in the various parts of the country.

6.      **Round Table on Oil and Gas**
Date: Wednesday, 31 January, 2007

**Chair: Professor Cyril Obi, Programme Coordinator, Post-Conflict Transition/State and Civil Society in Africa, Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden**
The Chair of the session, Prof Cyril Obi, said the round table was significant as it was an opportunity for the oil companies and civil society to dialogue on the way forward in the troubled Niger Delta. The oil companies were later asked to make their submissions on their work with their host communities.

The first presentation was made by **Mr Emeka Obi, Team Leader, Community Project Implementation, Shell Petroleum Development Company** (SPDC). According to Mr. Obi, Shell had an agric extension programme and it entered into a partnership with the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, on improved cassava seedlings. When the community saw it they embraced it.

Shell also gave overseas scholarship which saw many Nigerians being trained. These scholarships are almost exclusively reserved for the indigenes of the Niger Delta. Because the organization is a learning business, it had to review the basis of its work in the communities. Some people hijacked the benefits and the generality of the people were left out. In the mid-1990s, Shell was forced to review its work in the area of social development and community engagement. Shell recruited new people in the area of social development and began to engage communities in baseline analysis, and prioritise demands by the communities and began to move from there.

Mr. Obi recounted a number of unsavoury

experiences. For instance, Shell donated a classroom block in a particular community and the louvers disappeared. The organisation then began to ask itself the question: why? It was then that the issue of sustainability arose. The percentage of Nigerians that are not working are very high and it was not possible for Shell to provide jobs for everybody.

There were many groups that began to make counter demands. Shell addressed those issues and came up with sustainable development initiatives. In the past every Community Liaison Officer signed an MOU. These resulted in long lists of projects that were left undone and the area became restive. With the lessons learnt, the formulation and signing of MOUs with community is now left to only very senior officers. Shell is now working with international agencies on counterpart funding and is working better for the communities and engaging NGOs from these communities. Shell is presently working on the Nembe-Ogbia Road in partnership with NDDC at a cost of N9 billion and is now signing a global MOU with communities and creating structures to serve them.

Mr. Obi's presentation on Shell's activities and initiatives was followed by that of **Mr Joe Jakpa, Manager, Government and Policy Affairs, Chevron**, who commenced from where Mr. Obi left off. Mr. Jakpa said Chevron customized Global MOU and shared it with Shell. Chevron is engaged in activities similar to those of Shell as it is building schools, providing healthcare and building clinics. The programmes succeeded in creating a lot of discrimination among the communities.

Chevron built projects in its host communities and in the process created problems amongst the communities. It built schools and took picture of them. However, four years ago it decided that until the competence of the communities is enhanced, the organisation cannot continue with that kind of policy. The regular schools built by government in those communities are dilapidated. All the good schools, hospitals and other health facilities that are functioning are Chevron. Now the

organisation has decided that communities will decide what they want. It is a big mistake to expect that the money for the development of the Niger Delta will come from the oil companies.

Chevron tries to fill gaps in the communities where it is working. But it is not possible to fill every gap. For instance, if competence is not available in a particular community, the suggestion would be why not build the competence. But there is a limit to what the organisation can do. Chevron has been working with communities on the issue of the Global MOU.

Chevron has built the competence of the communities to demand from the NDDC and the local government. Whenever the Chairman of Chevron is talking to the state government, he has a clear idea and plan that is guiding him. This is why the Chairman would request for counterpart funding of any project. He will be asking you to bring a part of the money to develop their projects. Mr. Jakpa was convinced if conferences like the first National Conference on Community Development are held more regularly, things will be better.

The representative of **OKLNG** said this is a project that is coming up between Ondo and Edo States and the company does not envisage any problem with host communities.

**Mr. Fidel Pepple**, of NLNG shared the experiences of his company on partnership with host communities. He said NLNG is a *listening company* that is willing to talk to its host communities. Mr. Pepple said every project has to be sustainable; thus, the organisation does not just build projects, it ensures that the projects are sustainable. If NLNG cannot demonstrate that a particular project is sustainable, it does not go into it. NLNL engages at different levels. No matter how well meaning, it is not possible for it as a company to provide jobs for everybody. NLNG believes in building human capital. The company's staff is just about 1000, a figure that is less than the staff at the Port Harcourt Refinery. Chevron has micro finance

companies. Chevron actually trains them. The community has been involved in the process of development. The community is the one driving the process. The thinking is that when NLNG is not in existence, the community can continue to provide facilities for itself. Chevron's philosophy is self sustenance. The skills they acquire we expect that they will be with it for life.

**Mrs. Feyisola George**, Managing Director, Dunia Oil, said she panicked as she listened to the contributions of earlier speakers. She believed that the basic cause of the crises in the Niger Delta is the patronizing and condescending posture of the oil companies in their relationship with the communities. There must be a mutual agreement. You see women with her child strapped on the back, paddling a canoe and you don't want her to revolt. The oil companies must put a part of their profits for community development. She said her company is engaging the communities via a different approach. It informs the communities that it is a Nigerian company and it puts 5 per cent of its gross earnings to the communities for pursuing community development initiatives.

Mrs. George said Dunia Oil went into an understanding that was jointly prepared with the host communities and was inclusive. In one of the engagements representatives of the community walked out on the company. One issue that emerged from the experience is that it is the community that prioritises its needs and the company has to work within the parameter set by the community.

**Mr. Awo Osagie, Community Development Officer for NDDC**, said that part of the reasons for the establishment of the NDDC was the need to reduce the tension in the Niger Delta. He said it is necessary to separate real agitation from political agitation. Addressing community needs and agitations is topmost on the agenda of the NDDC. The objective of the organisation is to facilitate the development of an economically powerful region. Thus, NDDC has intervened in both infrastructural and

human development. At its inception, NDDC met a Niger Delta that was backward in terms of infrastructure. It has since intervened in various areas including computer training and the implementation of a micro credit policy.

NDDC is presently engaged in a joint community based programme with IFAD and this will cost $80 million. The project is to strengthen capacities of people in these areas. NDDC has also signed an MOU with UNIDA. A major problem confronted by the company Part of the problem being confronted is the absence of good governance. NDDC is trying to ensure that the communities are empowered in terms of their capacities. It is also working with CBN and SMEDAN for micro finance. It has facilitated the establishment of community development organizations and intervened in the health sector.

### Discussion

**Mrs. Ngozi Iwere of CLP** fired the first shot by asking what goals the various organisations operating in the resting communities of the Niger Delta are you working towards particularly against the background of the MDGs? **Mr. Abdullahi Sadiq** said the speakers had given beautiful testimonies but when he went round to the Niger Delta to attend the meeting of all the CDAs, none of the oil companies was present at those meetings. He recalled that the oil companies were invited but not a single one turned up at the meetings. He then asked: Why were they not there? He concluded that he could not see those things that the companies claim they have been doing.

One **Mr. Edgar** said CD is supposed to be a partnership. It is not supposed to be a ceding of rights of the people. If issues are raised and the people in the communities are not carried along, it would not work: what would work is a partnership.

**Darah All-Well Brown** said people have asked severally: Where is government in all these? He said corporate responsibility has been defined and it is on the basis of this definition that the companies are being held guilty. He said he did not know that NDDC exist because

he lives in his community for half of the time, and it is not what you do but how you go about doing it.

**Ms. Lilian Nwokobia of the Centre for Rural Integration** said what pained her is that people gathered in the room discussing cannot do much. She said the challenge is for the government to remember to play its part and not for all the blame for the underdevelopment of the communities to be heaped on the corporate organisations operating in the area since they are all paying taxes.

**Nomne Nwangu, from Edo State** said it is generally agreed that the oil companies are not doing enough. He hoped they will start to do things rightly. As far as he is concerned, the companies have not started doing things for the communities. SPDC gave water but it is the women that bought the diesel. The Global MOU should ensure that communities know what to do. He said the communities have come a long way and he would not want to agree that they made mistakes in the past. As an Ijaw who had gone through several trainings, he thought the Federal Government did not put the community in the picture. He said that for 50 years of Shell's existence, the communities have nothing to show for it. Things are so bad and Shell is so unresponsive that it has refused to close an oil well that is causing havoc to the people and has refused to give a time when it would come to close it.

**Ms. Yewande Olaopa from Lagos** thought the oil companies should think of part ownership so that their profits can trickle down to the communities. **Mr. Tony Iyare, a Journalist from Lagos** asked what the problem was with the MOU signed with the Ugborodo community in 2002 because it was signed with the participation of everybody. He said nothing significant has happened in the lives of the people ever since.

**Mina Margaret Ogbanga, Centre for Development Support Initiatives** said the people are tired of conflicts and they are tired of these crises. Communities need to get

involved in PVA. Host communities are in big crisis and there is need for productive partnership. For the benefit of best practices, it is important to ask what happened to the Afam project. It is important to know what value has been added. The corporate bodies have outlined what they are doing. It is not enough to know what is being done but how does this fit into the MDGs.

**Mr. Emmanuel Okah from Isoko, Delta State**, said the problem being faced today has to do with absence or lack of trust, honesty and transparency. He asked: what happened to OMPADEC and how have the Governors of the oil states utilized the 13 per cent to develop the Niger Delta? He said the agricultural extension project has really helped and it is working in his own area of the Niger Delta. He said it is necessary to abrogate the Land Use Decree and that NGOs like CLP need to work in the local areas. He then pleaded that the conference should get the local governments to

work with the oil companies and things will work out fine in the communities.

**Mr. Lucky Abioluwajumi** of the Office of Secretary to the State Government, Delta State, said it was not necessary to bandy accusations but to seek to come up with solutions. If one were to go to those areas, one would realise the enormity of the problem but solving the problem cannot be done without dialogue. He said about 8 boreholes were built in Isoko area, but none is working.

**Mr. Ubansi O Ubansi** said he was interested in the area of critical observation. He said the communities are suffering because the community relations officers engaged by the various companies are not honest in their dealings with the people. He said that amongst the groups in Nigeria, the Niger Delta communities are the most marginalised
In his response to the various comments, **Mr. Emeka Obi** of Shell agreed that mistakes were



L-R: Professors Obafemi Ajibola, Sola Akinrinade and Cyril Obi at the conference.

made in the past but the engine is now ready for progress. This is why the company has encouraged some community to attend the conference by fully sponsoring their participation. Shell is reviewing its past engagements with a view to correcting mistakes and moving forward. With specific reference to a matter in Uruan, he said the problem had to do with the people who could not agree among themselves. He said the people are making it impossible for Shell to work with them and it is impossible to proceed with that kind of project without support from the people. He said Shell is moving away from the concept of host communities to GMOU.

**Mr. Sola Adebanwo of Chevron** said, without belabouring the issue, the MOU with the Ugborodo community was part of the old practice. The new GMOU is being done with the consent of the Ugborodo community.

Mr. Decca Keredei, a traditional ruler from Bayelsa State said his community is not on the map of Nigeria. He said that in his community, there is no hospital and the road network is impossible. If he desires to travel to Yenagoa, his state capital, he would have to travel through Delta State. He said, as somebody who is interested in bringing electricity to his community, he went to Germany to learn how to install solar energy. He said the community has no pipe borne water. He said there should be a serious clean up of areas affected by oil spills. He complained that if the people are looking for jobs, they will be told that they are not trained. The question is: why not train the people? The community cannot train their children and need scholarships to train them. Mr. Keredei also complained about the treatment of local contractors. He said the companies claim they want to engage indigenous contractors but such contracts could not be more than ten million Naira. All the contractors of the Niger Delta are unable to buy anything significant because their capital base is low.

In rounding up, the representative of the NDDC asked if it was possible for these projects to go round? He said roads and water projects are being carried out in Bonny where the company is based but it is not possible for it to do

everything. The NLNG representative said no single company can achieve the MDGs. We can only contribute to achieving the MDGs

The chairperson, Professor Cyril Obi, said the beautiful thing is that this dialogue continues. We need to build partnership. We all need to work together.

## Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony commenced about 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 1 February 2007. The ceremony was chaired by Dr. Shehu Sule, OFR, Director of Community Development and Population Activities, Federal Ministry of Health. Present at the high table were Mrs. Ngozi Iwere, Director of CLP; Professor Foluso Okunmadewa of The World Bank; Professor Ade Olomola, Consultant to the Federal Ministry of Health on the development of the Draft National Policy for Community Development; and Professor Sola Akinrinade,

framework had been reviewed by various working groups during the course of the conference. Professor Olomola presented the highlights of the revisions that had been suggested both to the draft policy and the implementation matrix by the various working groups and it was agreed that the revised draft was a good reflection of what had been agreed during the various working sessions. Further suggestions for improvement were made by various participants and these were debated on the floor. Following the thorough debate, the motion was moved for the



Members of the high table at the closing ceremony

Head of the Conference Report and Documentation Team.

## Adoption of the Revised Draft *National Community Development Policy for Nigeria* and the Draft *National Strategic Framework for Community Development in Nigeria*

The ceremony commenced with a presentation of the revised draft *National Community Development Policy for Nigeria* and the Draft *National Strategic Framework for Community Development in Nigeria*, by Professor Ade Olomola. The draft policy and implementation

adoption of the document and its recommendation to the Federal Government for adoption. The motion was adopted. The draft *National Community Development Policy for Nigeria* and the Draft *National Strategic Framework for Community Development in Nigeria* are attached as appendices to this Report.

## Adoption of the Conference Communiqué

The adoption of the draft *National Community Development Policy for Nigeria* and of the draft *National Strategic Framework for Community*

*Development in Nigeria* was followed by the presentation of the draft Conference Communiqué. The draft Conference Communiqué which was in four parts was presented by Professor Sola Akinrinade. The communiqué contained 13 major observations and 11 recommendations that emerged from the conference. These observations and recommendations covered issues raised in all the seven thematic focus areas of the conference. Following the presentation of the draft communiqué, participants were requested to make comments.

Various suggestions were made and there was a long debate on where the Department of Community Development should be appropriately located among the ministries



**MRS. NGOZI IWERE**
*(Giving the vote of thanks)*

and agencies of Government. Participants expressed various opinions. While some argued that it should be an agency under the Presidency, others preferred the creation of a separate Ministry for Community Development; yet others called for placement under the Ministry of National Planning. At the state level, many argued for placement under the Ministry of Local Government. The prevailing view was for placement under the National Planning Commission and this was so recommended. Participants however observed that Community Development should be made completely independent of Social Development as this has served to confuse issues over the past ten years.

**Vote of thanks**

The vote of thanks was moved by the Project Director, Community Life Project, Mrs. Ngozi Iwere. She expressed her gratitude to the implementing partners and stakeholders and the various government agencies whose collaboration and support made the conference possible and successful. She also thanked all the resource persons, rapporteurs, volunteers, and the ushers for their great support. Mrs. Iwere expressed her profound gratitude to Professor Cyril Obi, Programme Coordinator, Post-Conflict Transition, the State and Civil Society in Africa for coming from Sweden just to chair the Oil and Gas Round Table. Special thanks were expressed to the management of Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja for extending generous concessions to the organizers, noting that the conference had not witnessed any equipment failures. Finally, Mrs. Iwerre thanked all the participants for their sustained energy level, noting that the conference has been a fine experience for everybody. While wishing all participants journey mercies to their various destinations, she hoped that they would live to the high life expectancy that we see in other parts of the world.

**National Anthem**

The National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria was brought to a close with the rendition of the Nigerian National Anthem.

DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION
ACTIVITIES FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

COMMUNITY LIFE PROJECT

Report of National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria (NCCD 2007) January 28 - February 2, 2007

DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION
ACTIVITIES FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Community Life Project

# PART VI

## ANNEXES

- **CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE**
- **DRAFT NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR NIG.**
- **PARTICIPANTS INFORMATION**

## APPENDIX 1

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA, ABUJA, FCT, 28 JANUARY – 2 FEBRUARY 2007

### COMMUNIQUÉ

The first National Conference on Community Development was convened from 28 January to 2 February 2007 in the Congress Hall of Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria. The Conference was declared open by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, who was represented by the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs, Hajiya Miriam Ciroma. The Conference which had the theme, __"Repositioning Community Development as an Effective Tool for Achieving the Millennium Development Goals", was convened by the Department of Community Development and Population Activities, Federal Ministry of Health and Community Life Project, a Lagos-based non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting community participation and ownership of development. Participants were welcome to the conference by the Honourable Minister of Health, Professor Eyitayo Lambo, who was represented by Dr. Shehu Sule, MFR, Director, Department of Community Development and Population Activities, Federal Ministry of Health.

*The Conference had the objective of promoting greater understanding of the concept of community development and its role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Its sessions were convened around seven focus areas, viz.:*
- Community Development, Poverty Reduction and Pro-poor Services
- The Community in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis
- Environmental Sustainability, Food Security and Community Development
- Community-Centered Approaches to Maternal and Child Health Promotion
- Gender Issues in Community Development

- Community Development and the Quest for Universal Basic Education, and
- Community Relations and Partnership Building

At the commencement of the Conference, participants were presented with a draft National Community Development Policy for Nigeria as well as a draft National Strategic Framework for Community Development in Nigeria.

### Observations

Participants deliberated on the various issues highlighted and noted as follows:
1. Community Development is the process of building healthy, prosperous and sustainable societies in which the community is both the agent and beneficiary. It entails the empowerment and full participation of all levels of the community in the conceptualization, planning, implementation and monitoring of development processes. It also involves harnessing existing knowledge, relationships, networks and resources of individuals, families and organisations that constitute the community.
2. Community development is not limited to rovision of physical infrastructure but covers ducation, health, economic and other well-being.
3. Community Development involves true democratic practice at the local level geared towards the development of the society and has four crucial elements: information (the people must know about it), Consultation (the people's views must be considered), participation (active involvement of the people particularly in relation but 1. not limited to resource mobilization), and accountability.
4. True community development involves harnessing the abundant social capital available in the country, the existing social structures, networks and resources at the community level.
5. A key element of the Millennium Development Goals is pro-poor development which focuses on the

formulation and implementation of pro-poor social policies, increasing local access by the poor and marginalized to assets, capital, skills and services to improve their lives and their capacity to contribute to the overall development of their communities.

6. There is no evidence that the MDGs have been fully domesticated and operational at the community level in the country; without community level engagement with the MDGs, it is highly unlikely that the set targets would be achieved.

7. There is need for the cooperation of all sectors of Nigerian society for the realization of the targets of the MDGs.

8. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria are poverty-driven and also reinforce poverty. Gender inequalities increase vulnerability and affects response to these diseases. Poverty stricken, ignorant and non-literate communities cannot fight these diseases in isolation without being empowered and offered support by strategic partners, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, traditional healers, the private sector and government.

9. Nigeria has the second highest maternal mortality and one of highest infant mortality rates in the world, and the situation is worsening.

10. The pervasive gender inequality in Nigeria is an impediment to community and national development as it marginalizes half of the population from participation in the development process and from sharing in its benefits.

11. Nigeria's strategic response to redressing gender inequality through various programs has moved from women in development to women and development and currently gender mainstreaming. Both gender mainstreaming and community development challenge inequality and promote social change through the process of participation, empowerment, and the benefits are shared equitable.

12. Lack of continuity as regime changes leads to scrapping of projects, e.g. replacement of Better Life Programme with Family Support Programme. To this should be

added the frequent relocation of CD departments particularly at the state level in several parts of the country.

13. While it is important to highlight and emphasise successes recorded in community project endeavours, recognising other project failings would enable development workers to learn from past mistakes and the experiences of others.

## Recommendations
### Participants thereafter recommended as follows

1. Government should ensure institutional stability for Community Development by locating and retaining it in the relevant unit. For proper coordination and given the multi-sectoral and multidimensional implication of Community Development in Nigeria, the coordination should be transferred at the Federal level to the Presidency, preferably the National Planning Commission.

2. There is need to adequately recognise the vidence-based contribution of community evelopment approaches to the attainment of he goals of NEEDS, SEEDS and LEEDs and

   he MDGs in Nigeria through increased olitical will and budgetary allocation that eets WHO standards.

3. To facilitate the domestication and perationalisation of the MDGs at the ommunity level, arrangements should be ccelerated to publish and distribute the local

   anguage versions of the MDGs for wide issemination to the populace.

4. True empowerment of the community must nvolve the local government and sectoral inistries without which the expected outcome

   would not be achieved and whatever is achieved would not be sustainable. Thus, greater emphasis should be placed on the key role of local governments in community-driven development.

5. Implementers of community-driven development programmes should engage

in active social networking in order to maximize the benefits of comparative advantage and synergy.

6. Implementers and stakeholders should adopt transparency and accountability as key principles of approaches to delivering community driven development; this should be in addition to establishing effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation frameworks for CD projects.

7. There is need to promote sustainable CD from gender perspective by integrating gender in all CD programmes.

8. There is need for the establishment of community radios in Nigeria to mobilize the communities for development. Steps should therefore be taken in this regard by stakeholders at the community level in the country with support from other tiers of government.

9. The media should be equipped to play the critical role of mobilizing communities for development. Hence, Nigerian journalists and other media practitioners should be trained on development issues in order to equip them with requisite skills for active participation in delivering community driven development.

10. Oil companies should adopt a more emphatic approach in relating to host communities. They need to show greater transparency and abandon the patronizing and condescending mode of engagement with the communities while devoting a substantial part of their annual profits for community development.

11. Since the three major health problems, viz., HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria are poverty-driven, communities should be mobilized and empowered educationally and economically to combat them.

## National Policy on Community Development and Implementation Matrix

The conference recommended for consideration of government a draft National Policy on Community Development and the accompanying Implementation Matrix.

## Closing

The Conference came to a close on Thursday 1 February 2007.

**Dr. Shehu Sule, MFR**
Federal Ministry of Health
For: Federal Government of Nigeria

Mrs. Ngozi Iwere
Community Life Project
For Non-governmental organisations

Professor Foluso Okunmadewa
World Bank, Nigeria Office
For International Development Partners
1 February 2007

# DRAFT

# NATIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR NIGERIA.

# (2006)

## TABLE OF CONTENT

## CHAPTER ONE
## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

### 1.1.1 Concept of Community Development

1.1.1.2 Community Development (CD) has been organized as a development paradigm in Nigeria from time immemorial to date, however, it remains rudimentary and operates more meaningfully in the rural than urban areas. Struggling to avoid being completely left behind, many rural dwellers develop the spirit of self-help for the provision of some of the basic needs within their communities. Self-help activities have been nurtures by number of social-cultural factors inherent in several communities. The rural communities especially, have unique social cohesiveness and are homogeneous culturally and linguistically. The tradition and societal norms encourage communal approaches to the solution of a verity of problems – development, management, economic, environmental and so forth, albeit at a rudimentary level. However, CD is not expected to be the sole responsibility of the community members. By definition, CD is the by which efforts of the people themselves are united with those of the governmental authorities to improve the condition of the communities, to integrate them into the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national progress.

1.1.1.2 It is important to stress that CD does not relate only to rural Development, there is also urban community development. The term "community" does not connote a rural location. Conceptually,

community refers to a group of in the face-to-face contact, and bound common values and objectives, with as basic harmony of interest and aspirations. Such harmonious entity can be located in the rural and urban areas.

### 1.2 OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CD) EXPERIENCES IN NIGERIA

1.2.1 From time immemorial, Community Development (CD) has been recognized in many parts of the country as a vital instrument for enhancing the access of the rural dwellers to social amenities and other infrastructural facilities. For instance, the monumental civic centre in Abeokuta in the western part of the country (the Centenary Hall) is part of the CD efforts, which started way back in 1830. Also remarkable as the establishment of the Ibibio State College in 1939 by the Ibibio communities now in the South – South zone based entirely on their own resources. The entire Ibo community in the South East zone used to be the cynosure of CD experts and admirers as an outstanding example of a village where development projects have been initiated and implemented through community efforts.

Over the years, community development in Nigeria has witnessed considerable transformation in terms of nature of projects embarked upon, political recognition and the extent of integration into development planning. Various groups in the rural communities have been involved in the provision of a wide range of facilities including social, physical and institutional infrastructure. In various parts of the country, the self-help approach has been adopted in the construction and rehabilitation 1.1.1 of rural roads, primary and secondary schools, health centres, postal agencies and market stalls as well as in the

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provision of portable water and electricity. Part of the transformation was the increased involvement of government since the 1970s.

## 1.2 REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

1.2.1 During the Third National Development Plan period (1975 – 1980), conscious effort was made by the Federal Government to translate the official recognition of CD into action-oriented projects by integrating it into the national development-planning framework. This was based on the realization of the fact that the local people could be relied upon for rational decisions on matters affecting them and on their proven capability to sustain indigenous people-oriented development strategies, contrary to earlier presumptions that the rural people were irrational, mentally unsophisticated and unconcerned with the move towards modernization. In spite of the low level of progress in the adoption of CD as an instrument of development, government is not unaware of the potentials of such an instrument and within the last three decades some innovations have been introduced by the Federal Government. These include:

(i) Community Development under the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme;

(ii) Establishment of the Directorate of Food Roads and Rural Infrastructure (DFRI); and

(iii) Establishments of Community Banks.

1.1.1 The recognition of the potentials of CD by the Federal Government was demonstrated in the establishment and operations of these institutions. The action also portrayed Government concern and initiatives in the development of the rural areas. Unlike the NYSC, which has only a component dealing with CD, other institutions dealt much more directly with CD activities.

1.1.2 The NYSC was established in 1973 when Government was basking in the euphoria of oil boom. The other institutions came during the era of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) when it was becoming clear that Government could not continue to be the sole financiers of development projects. Available resources had to be used judiciously and efficiently and there should be much more involvement of the people in the development process

1.1.3 The Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure was established in 1986. In broad terms, DFFRI sought to improve the quality of life and standard of living of the rural dwellers through the execution of projects such as road construction and rehabilitation, promotion of productive economic activities, provision of pipe-borne water and rural electrification. Ostensibly, the development approach of DFFRI was based on the philosophy of effectively mobilized mass participation starting from the grassroots to all parts of the country. Thus, in executing these projects, the directorate enlisted the support of existing Community Development Associations (CDAs) and promoted the formation of several others, where they were non-existent, for the purpose of participating in the identification and prioritization of projects to be provided in specific communities.

1.1.4 The reinforcement of the role of community organisations was also apparent in the establishment of Community Banks by the Federal Government in the 1990. The objectives of the Community Banking Scheme include:

(i) The promotion of rural development by providing financial and banking services as well as other facilities to communities inadequately supplied with such services;

(ii) Rapid enhancement of the development

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of productive activities in the rural areas and hence the improvement of the economic status of both rural people and the rural areas;

(iii) Promotion of the emergence if an effective and integrated national financial system that responds to the needs of the whole economy from the community level through all levels of Governments;

(iv) Inculcation of disciplined banking habits among the masses of low income workers in Nigeria, especially those in the rural areas; and

(v) Fostering the spirit of community ownership and use of economic assets and the maintenance of such facilities on a sustainable basis.

1.1.5 To achieve these objectives, the Community Banks (CBs) have been designed to carry out both the conventional banking functions and some specialized functions, which are tailored to meet the peculiar needs of the rural communities. These include:

(i) The support of cooperative or group formation activities;

(ii) Assisting clients in the marketing of agricultural, industrial and other products; and

(iii) The provision of extension services to clients and other community members on financial matters

Although the idea of Community Banking came from the Government, ownership and operations of the CBs are the concern of the community members. A community bank can be owned by communities or a group of people or individuals within a community. However, no single individual can hold more than five (5) percent of the shares of the bank. The additional facilitating role played by the Government was the 1.1.1 granting of concessional loan of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N250, 000:00) to a deserving CB to

improve the working capital of such a bank.

## 1.2 REVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATIONS (CDAs) IN NIGERIA

1.2.1 The level of success achieved by various CDAs varies from place to place and it is affected by myriad of social and economic factors. In some states, CDAs are guided by local customs and tradition rather than by any constitution or byelaws. Their actions were often based on the decision reached at the general or executive meetings. In others, the CDAs operate with constitutions, which stipulate rules and procedure to guide the functions and powers of officers, proceeding at meetings as well as the activities to be performed by the associations. There are stipulated guidelines about meetings, financial matters and conduct of community development although in some cases the problem might be due to lack of effective actions on the part of Government. There is also the problem of delay in project execution due to financial constraints and lack of effective supervision and coordination of community development efforts by Government both at the state and local levels. There seems to be total neglect by local Governments in terms of providing financial assistance to self-help groups. Any community that embarked on any project was expected to shoulder the whole financial responsibility. This has greatly undermined community development activities in the state.

1.2.2 As far as Government assistance is concerned, emphasis has been in three main areas namely:

(i) Provision of matching grants for self-help projects;

(ii) Provision of multipurpose training center to develop leadership potentials among communities, inculcate in the community members the spirit of self-help and impart the right techniques for executing

projects; and

(iii) Establishment of public enlightenment centres (designated as Community Education Centres) to motivate local communities to understand the self-help approach through radio forum and television viewing.

1.2.3 Nevertheless, government achievement in these areas appear to be limited mainly by financial constraints.

1.2.4 To date, community development workers are critically in short supply in many LGAs. The existing staffers are faced with several operational difficulties, including inadequate transportation facilities for effective coverage of their areas of supervision. This has led to substantial decline in the morale of such staff. The transportation problem has been exacerbated by a number of structural adjustment policies, including the devaluation of the national currency, which has made it exceedingly expensive to import vehicles and spare parts. As well is the withdrawal of fuel subsidy and the attendant astronomic increase in transportation cost. Needless to stress the fact that the road network in many rural areas is in deplorable condition and this makes accessibility for effective supervision a difficult task.

1.2.5 The morale of CDA members is also being dampened due to lack of financial assistance from both State and Local Governments in the execution of self-help projects. Assistance from government seems to have dwindled considerably due to declining government revenue, which in turn led to conscious re-ordering of priorities and drastic reduction in expenditure in accordance with the prevailing economic conditions. Unfortunately, financial allocation for the provision of basic infrastructure in the rural areas was relegated to background at the local government level. This seems unjustifiable in view of the weak financial capacity of ruralities which capacity has

deteriorated substantially since the introduction of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1986.

1.2.6 With the deregulation of prices, withdrawal of subsidy on farm inputs, farm credit and petroleum products and the reduction of expenditure on social services under SAP, the rate of inflation soared uncontrollably and the purchasing power of the majority of the ruralities declined significantly. Available data from the Central Bank of Nigeria indicate that the inflation rate which was about 42% in 1980 stood at about 105% in 1986 and by 1992 it had climbed to about 471%. The result of a nation-wide study conducted during the implementation of SAP policies indicates that the economic well-being of the ruralities deteriorated remarkably. Between 1986 and 1989 the real income of rural households declined by about 28% and the level of savings fell by about 19%. The drastic decline in real income further incapacitated a large number of CDAs whose members could no longer afford to pay development levies or make voluntary donations. Also, with rising inflation, the cost of several projects skyrocketed and this totally defeated the spirit of self-help in many communities. Many self-help projects did not move beyond the planning stage while others had to be abandoned midstream.

1.2.7 Experiences from some states show that the issue with CDAs is not with the formation but how to ensure the survival and effective performance of their functions.

1.2.8 Generally, age and gender of members and formality of operations have little influence on the performance of the CDAs. The major problem facing them is lack of adequate funds.

**CHAPTER TWO**

## 2. MISSION STATEMENT

2.1 The CD Policy is designed to effectively ensure that the efforts of various community organisations are united with those of governments to improve the socio-economic and cultural well-being of the people as well as integrate them into national development. It emphasizes the participation of the people themselves through self-reliance and community initiative. It also endorses the provision of financial and technical assistance by various levels of government and support of relevant International Organisations/NGOs for community-driven programmes and projects.

### 2.1.2 POLICY OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

2.1.3 The broad goal of CD policy is to establish an organized system of service delivery at the community level that will enable people to be self-reliant and to participate fully in the development of the country. Essentially, the policy seeks to ensure that the communities are fully integrated into the life of the nation through specific CD programmes.

### 2.4 SPECIFIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

2.4.1 The specific objectives are to:
(i) Encourage cooperation between communities, Government and the private sector in the improvement of the living conditions of communities;
(ii) Foster the spirit of communal self-help and initiative in the improvement of socio-economic conditions of communities;

(iii) Assist communities in organizing themselves to embark on self-help projects;

(iv) Educate and stimulate individuals and groups to accept change for the improvement of their living standards;

(v) Encourage inter-communal interaction that will promote exchange of ideas for social economic and cultural development;

(vi) Create effective capacity building opportunities at the community level in order to upgrade the skills of the people and their quality of life;

(vii) Encourage the spirit of patriotism; and

(viii) Resolve conflicts between communities

### 2.5 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

2.5.1 Popular participation must be a regular feature of CD. All tiers of government must encourage participatory budgeting and ensure the involvement of communities in project design and implementation. The views of community members must be incorporated in decisions that affect their lives and they should be involved in monitoring service delivery and public expenditure. This is a way of promoting accountability and transparency in CD.

2.5.2 The participatory approach does not permit laxity and helps to achieve project objectives. It enhances the effectiveness of project monitoring and leads to successful implementation. It promotes sense of belonging and ownership among project beneficiaries. Moreover, the participatory approach allows quick identification and correction of mistakes. It enhances the self-confidence of target groups in managing their own projects.

### 2.6 Creation of Effective Linkage Between Communities and Local Governments

2.6.1 The State Government have a major responsibility in this regard. Specifically, the State can foster the developmental

synergies between local governments and communities by taking the following actions:

(i) Providing support (marketing, credit, technical, managerial, etc) for project implementation at the community level;

(ii) Providing incentives to staff to motivate them in carrying out their functions especially relating to regulation, facilitation and extension, etc.

## 2.7 Encouragement Of Community Involvement in Poverty Alleviation Programmes

2.7.1 Currently, the country is implementing some poverty alleviation programmes and it is in the process of articulating appropriate policies and strategies to tackle poverty. Poor communities both in urban and rural areas must be involved in the process. They should also participate in the implementation of the projects. Their views must be sought in terms of their perception of poverty and ways of ensuring effective implementation of poverty alleviation programmes.

## 2.8 Offering of Technical Assistance on Self-help Projects

2.8.1 This will involve the establishment of Works Service Units (WSU) at the local government level and provision of equipments/tools to communities working on communal self-help projects at a particular time. The provision of tools and equipment does not mean direct purchase by the Government concerned. Depending on the type of project, it may be possible for the Government to strike a deal with appropriate agencies or enterprises for the supply of the equipment to be used at a particular period.

## 2.9 Establishment of Development Support Communication Unit

2.9.1 Basically, the units will seek to motivate and support local communities to understand the self-help approach and engage in public enlightenment through media such as radio, films, television, newspapers, and magazines etc. The units will educate and stimulate individuals and groups to accept change for the improvement of their living standards.

## 2.10 Community Involvement in Primary Health Care Programmes.

2.10.1 Attainment of optimal health is a right of every Nigerian. To realize the desired goal of key health programmes, active participation of communities in preventive health programmes such as immunization, HIV/AIDS campaigns, control of malaria, tuberculosis and other programmes aimed at minimizing health shocks will be promoted. Promotion of healthy lifestyles and appropriate nutrition, for example, exclusive breastfeeding and timely complementary feeding with locally sourced food, maternal nutrition in pregnancy and lactation will be undertaken by the communities and support groups established to ensure community ownership and sustainability.

2.10.2 Government at all levels must support communities and build their capacity to actively participate in planning, implementation and monitoring health care delivery in their communities.

2.10.3 The health sub-committees of the CDAs shall be members of the PHC committees at all levels.

## 2.11 Promotion of "Bottom-Up" Approach to Development Rather than "Top-Down" Approach

2.11.1 Although external assistance is

required in CD, it is important to ensure that the community members themselves have a say right from project conception to implementation. The entire process of development must be participatory. They must be involved in the conception of the project, identify the priorities and be involved in the implementation. By so doing, they can have a genuine claim of ownership and they can make meaningful contribution to project sustainability.

2.12 Integrated Community Development Approach

2.12.1 The various components of Social Development (SD) and other relevant stakeholders will work in a collaborative way to ensure the transformation of communities.

## CHAPTER THREE
2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

2.1 Community development is relevant not only in the rural areas but also in the urban areas. Over the years however, issues of CD have been much more widespread in the rural than in the urban areas.

2.2 In order to achieve a holistic community development, communities shall be mobilized to pursue an integrated development approach in all priority sectors identified below:

(i) Construction of roads;

(ii) Rehabilitation of roads;

(iii) Construction of culverts;

(iv) Building of market stalls;

(v) Establishments of modern markets;

(vi) Provision of electricity;

(vii) Building of drainage facilities; and

(viii) Building of palaces.

### 3.2.2 Social Development Activities

(i) Building of town halls including library and television viewing centres;

(ii) Building schools;

(iii) Building of day care centres;

(iv) Building security posts;
(v) Providing sports facilities for youths and persons with disability; and

(vi) Providing juvenile delinquency rehabilitation centres

### 3.2.3 Communication Development Activities

(i) Building of postal agencies;

(ii) Building of post offices;

(iii) Maintaining community libraries; and

(iv) Providing telephone & internet services.

### 3.2.4 Water Supply

(i) Sinking boreholes;

(ii) Construction of wells;

(iii) Construction of earth dams;

(iv) Provision of pipe-borne water; and

(v) Rain harvesting.

### 3.2.5 Environmental Protection Activities

(i) Garbage collection and disposal;

(ii) Building community latrine (VIP, pit latrines etc.);

(Iii) Building community parks;

(iv) Planting trees to beautify community;

(v) Cooperative environmental sanitation (street cleaning); and

(vi) Cleaning community streams

### 3.2.6 Community Security and Conflict Management

(i) Neighborhood protection (vigilante);
(ii) Local systems of conflict resolution; and

(iii) Police community relations committees.

### 3.2.7 Human Development Activities

(i) Community mobilization;

(ii) Public enlightenment; and

(iii) Exchange programmes

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 2. IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

2.1 The conventional top-down development approach is no longer tolerable in the 21$^{st}$ century. There is a trend towards increased participation of all stakeholders in the development process. This trend is very relevant for CD activities in both rural and urban areas. Thus, the main focus of CD effort should be Community Participation, Self Help and "Aided" Self Help.

### 2.2 Community Participation

4.2.1 Participation is a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources that affect them. Participation is not a uniform process;

Rather, it involves a continuum of approaches ranging from information dissemination,

collaboration, coordination, consultation and political representation to participatory research. Another dimension of participation is empowerment, which includes the transfer of control over decision-making and resources to all stakeholders. The key objectives of participations are to:

(i) Ensure that the preferences and values of communities are reflected in the choice and design of intervention;

(ii) Use community and participation monitoring to improve implementation, transparency and accountability; and

(iii) Give poor people more influence over their lives.

4.2.2. Community participation is an active process by which beneficiary or client groups influence the direction and execution of a development project with a view to enhancing their well being in terms of income, personal growth, self-reliance or other values they cherish (Paul 1987). The key arguments for adopting a participatory approach in CD activities include the following:

(i) Greater efficiency (minimize time, energy and cost limited use of costly resources);

(ii) Effectiveness – guarantees successful completion (desired objectives are achieved);

(iii) Self-reliance – increase peoples sense of control over their lives;

(iv) Wider coverage –brings more people within the influence of development projects; and

(v) Sustainability - ownership, maintenance of delivery systems, guarantees continuity.

4.2.3. If the approach is to yield the desired result, however, the following major principles (see Oakley et al, 1991) must be applied.]

- *The primacy of people - Whatever the condition of their poverty, people can progressively transform their environment with the help of, but not dominated by, external agents. Participatory development must be consciously based on people, their needs, their analysis of issues and their decisions.*

- *People's Knowledge - As a corollary to the above principle, this principle insists that people's knowledge is as appropriate a basis for development action as the knowledge brought in by professionals. Essentially, local knowledge must be incorporated into development projects.*

- *People include Women - A fundamental principle of participatory development emphasizes women's position as an equal partner in the mass of community members.*

### 4.4.4 Self-Help

4.4.5 Self-help activities originate in rural areas and are nurtured by a number of socio-cultural factors inherent in several communities. The rural communities have unique social cohesiveness and are homogeneous culturally and linguistically. The tradition and societal norms encourage communal approaches to the solution of a variety of problems-development, management, economic, environmental and so forth, albeit at a rudimentary level. Note however, that self help efforts will fit perfectly into the CD paradigm only when they are implemented within a given framework which includes crucial elements such as felt needs,

local involvement, popular participation, working with groups and communities rather then individuals and using an integrated approach to development. In the urban communities self-help activities are increasing becoming the norm, the urban communities are usually made up of a heterogeneous groups whose members relocate from time to time.

### 4.4.6 "Aided" Self-Help

4.4.7 It is important to stress that some of the self-help efforts of rural communities across the country should be regarded as components of CD rather than a substitute or even a complete framework for CD. In many parts of the country. Government's support for CD activities especially in the rural areas is in form of providing financial aid, and sometimes technical and material assistance. This is usually in the form of matching grants to the communities involved. There is no participation or collaboration in decisions, project design, implementation and monitoring. These activities are undertaken by community members and the main involvement of government is in the provision of grants to assist the communities financially. Since such grants are often disbursed in an ad hoc manner, this approach is not likely to be reliable especially in situations where there are several communities competing for grants and where there re no tangible criteria for selecting grant beneficiaries.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5.0 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

5.1 There is need appropriate institutional arrangements for effective CD. Basically, it is important for the three tiers of government to have a cooperative relationship as far as CD is

concerned. However, whatever role is to be played by any tier of government has to be based on the likelihood and capability of utilizing resource efficiency and generating desired outcomes. Irrespective of the nature and strength of the relationships some pre-conditioned must prevail if CD is to be effective. They include the following:

## 5.2    Community Empowerment

5.2.1    The current trend towards decentralization of power and service delivery from the Federal Government to States and Local Governments is a welcome development. This is in keeping with the global trends toward decentralized delivery of service partly in response to the global growth of democracy and civil society. In Africa in particular, studies have shown that where it is controlled by beneficiaries and implemented by them or autonomous agencies. It has also been confirmed hat externally supported projects based on community driven delivery mechanism have fewer problems than others. Thus, this trend must be pursued in Nigeria especially in view of the emerging democratic experiences and inadequate of public institutions and lack of community awareness as well as non-pursuance of their right.

5.2.2    Local communities have to be empowered economically and socially to ensure effective participation and contribution to development projects. There should be employment opportunities and the income level must be increased substantially to strengthen the financial capacity of local inhabitants and to stimulate their interest in community participation. The issue of poverty must bet tackled in a consistent and persistent manner. Government shall strengthen and sustain poverty adequate plan for community participation in planning

and implementation to ensure success and sustainability through:

(i)    Proper motivation for effective participation of stakeholders. An enabling environment for the cooperation of all parties must exist if interactions and involvement are to be sustained;

(ii)    Effective community leadership and organisation. The more organized the community, the better equipped, it is for participating development,

(iii)    Appropriate learning approach. There must be appropriate mechanism to generate the required skills and to provide necessary feedback to all parties involved in CD; and

(iv)    Effective channel for asset accumulation by poor communities. Community members must have easy access to the means of production. They must have access to lad for community projects and adequate capital to finance development projects.

## 5.3.3    Role of Government

5.3.4    The three tiers of government – Federal, State and Local shall have distinct roles to play in achieving CD policy objectives and in 5.3.5 successfully implementing the programmes and projects.

## 5.4.4    Federal Government

5.4.5    The federal government shall:
(i)    Co-ordinate and monitor CD activities in the State
(ii)    Make adequate provisions, grants and other forms of support for self-help projects in the states;
(iii)    Facilitate and monitor activities

of international agencies in CD projects;

(iv) Encourage, promote and fund research and planning;

(v) Provide for staff development programmes and materials for the facilitators and the communities;

(vi) Promote exchange programmes among States;

(vii) Recognize communities with best practices;

(viii) Support the activities of the National Community Development Council of Nigeria (NCDCN); and

(ix) Establish/strengthen a national data bank on CD programmes

### 5.5.6 State Government

5.5.7 The State Government shall:

(i) Supervise and monitor CD activities in the Local Governments;

(ii) Assist projects by making adequate annual budgetary provisions;

(iii) Promote and fund research and planning activities;

(iv) Register and supervise Community Development Associations (CDAs)

(v) Establish Community Development Councils (CDCs)

(vi) Collate date on CD programmes and submit to the Federal Government;

(vii) Encourage exchange programmes, recognition of best practices, education and training of facilitators and community leaders;

(viii) Promote functional literacy course and leadership training;

(ix) Establish and maintain Rural Work Service (RWS) units;

(x) Encourage cooperative activities, especially of occupational groups;

(xi) Encourage integrated CD;

(xii) Provide for staff development

programmes and materials for the facilitators and the clientele;

(xiii) Establish Development Support Communication Units (DSCU); and

(xiv) Support National Community Development Council of Nigeria (NCDCN).

### 5.6 Local Governments

5.6.1 The Local Governments shall:

(i) Monitor CD activities at the community level;

(ii) Make budgetary provisions for grants to community projects;

(iii) Establish Community Development Committee (CDCs);

(iv) Encourage education and training for field workers and community leaders;

(v) Promote functional literacy course and leadership training;

(vi) Establish Rural Work Services Units;

(vii) Encourage the establishment and growth of model villages;

(viii) Promote the training and development of local artisans;

(ix) Sensitize communities to form CDAs; and

(x) Collate data on CD programmes and forward it to State Governments.

### 5.6.2 NGOs, CBOs, and the Organised Private Sector

5.6.3 Many NGOs, CBOs and the Organised Private Sector are involved in the implementation of development projects including projects aimed at alleviating poverty. By liaising with the communities. It should be possible to reflect the preferences of community members in the choice of projects. Their roles are to:

(i) Facilitate community access to resources and information;

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(ii) Promote citizenship and leadership responsibilities by the communities; and

(iii) Support communities to form CDAs.

## 5.7 Communities

5.7.1 The failure of many development projects has been attributed to the top-down approach often adopted by the authorities concerned. The participation of the communities which the projects are supposed to serve is now considered to be one way of ensuring successful project implementation communities shall:

(i) Establish CDAs;

(ii) Raise funds and provide other available resources for the implementation of CD activities;

(iii) Initiate CD programmes and projects;

(iv) Provide logistic support for Community Development programmes;

(v) Execute, maintain and sustain CD indicators for monitoring and performance evaluation.

## 5.8 Nature of Community Involvement

5.8.1 Communities are involved in various stages of developmental activities such as planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Their involvement relates specifically to the following issues:

(i) Decision on the type and prioritization of activities to be carried out;

(ii) Consultations on needs assessment;

(iii) Selection of indicators for monitoring and performance evaluation;

(iv) Provision of funds to some extent; and

(v) Provision f logistics support.

## 5.9 Benefits of Community Involvement

5.9.1 All the NGOs agree that involving communities in carrying out their activities is quite beneficial. The benefits are as follows:

(i) Beneficiaries are happy and feel that they are part of the process, this is apt to enhance sustainability;

(ii) A lot of resources are easily pooled to facilitate project implementation;

(iii) It heightens the level of awareness which can enhance sustainability;

(iv) It elevates the status of women since they are offered the opportunity to be involved in CD activities;

(v) It makes the job less cumbersome and objectives have better chances of being realized;

(vi) Suspicion is drastically reduced;

(vii) It ensures high rate of loan repayment; and

(viii) It ensures accountability at the grassroots level.

## 6.0 Problems of Community Involvement

6.1 Although community involvement is local level development is widely recognized and advocated, it is important to stress that the involvement of communities in project planning and implementation has its own problems which are as follows:

(i) Delay in project implementation occurs sometimes due to selfish interests of Community members;

(ii) Community involvement in a project not backed up with monetary incentives may turn out to be a venture in a waste drain pipe because of he uncooperative attitude of community members;

(iii) Local politics (disagreement among the people over resources use and location of projects);

(iv) It takes time to mobilize illiterates;

(v) Risk of not being able to solve all the problems and demand for more attention from the communities who always have too many expectations; and

(vi) At times the process of decision-making is very slow.

6.2 These problems are highlighted so that actions can be taken to address them as efforts are made to integrate the views of community members into CD activities

## 7.0 External Development Agencies

7.1 Usually, external agencies have the right motives to promote development assistance. However, priorities are often misplaced and efforts counter-productive when the beneficiaries are not involved in the design and implementation of development projects. Sometimes efforts of different partners are duplicated and uncoordinated, thus, it is important for the external development partners to recognize the ingenuity, resourcefulness and preferences of community members and to involve them from the beginning to the end of the project including monitoring and evaluation. Development agencies shall therefore support CD programmes in a co-coordinated and participatory manner in order to ensure sustainable development.

## CHAPTER SIX

## 8.0 FUNDING OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

8.1 All tiers of Government including the major stakeholders in CD have a role to play in providing funds for the

execution of CD projects. In other words, the community members, the government at various levels, NGOs, CBOs and External Development Agencies can provide CD finance. In the rural areas, however, the community members cannot be a reliable source of funds, especially for the provision of public goods, in view of the fact that income-earning opportunities are limited and poverty is endemic.

## 8.2 Government Funding

8.2.1 Government shall provide funds through budgetary allocations. This is important because the provision of public goods is the direct responsibility of government. All tiers of government will provide financial support in the form of grants, subsides, revolving funds to support local services delivery and credit guarantee to encourage and strengthen self help efforts in various communities across the country. Currently, credit guarantee in Nigeria is applicable only in respect of agricultural enterprises. The Federal Government shall extend the facility to non-agricultural enterprises both in the rural and urban areas. However, only activities that can generate returns to repay the guaranteed loans will be considered under such a credit guarantee scheme. The scheme will be useful in strengthening the financial capacity of communities who lack the necessary capital for funding important projects. In general, the following forms of financial support will be applied by the Government for a number of CD projects.

## 8.3 Community-By-Community Financial Support

8.3.1 Financial assistance from Government shall be target at particular communities. Each

community shall receive allocation, which can then be used according to the criteria laid down by community members. The members shall have the freedom to choose from competing projects and tailor the projects to their own specific needs.

### 9. Project-By-Project Financial Support

9.1     support here concentrates on specific, pre-determined projects, which may be approved uniformly for particular areas. This form of support shall be applied in the case of projects whose implementation will require minimal local financial involvement

### 10. Community funding

10.1 funding of development activities by community members themselves is vital for a number of reasons. It enhances commitment to project implementation, ensures sustainability, and promotes a good sense of responsibility and ownership at the community level. Understandably, for income-generating activities, it is not difficult to find a high level of commitment to project funding by community members. Difficulties often arise where the local self-help efforts relate to non-income generating activities especially those, which do not include the charging of user fees. For this later category of activities community funding will be limited to a minimum affordable contribution by community members that is likely to ensure successful service delivery.

10.2     To ensure improved community funding, communities can organise fund raising activities to mobilise funds to finance some important projects. For a particular community, these will involve the participation of age grades, town unions, social activities and well-

to-do individuals either living within or outside the community.

### 11. Funding By NGOs and Private Sector Enterprises

11.1 the NGOs and other organisations interested in CD shall continue to be encouraged to provide financial support. Since their level of funding depends on funds from donor agencies, appropriate regulatory framework shall be put in place to encourage them to continue to provide assistance to dedicated and effective NGOs. Private sector enterprise shall be encouraged through innovative tax incentives to invest in CD. This shall be in the form of provision of credit (in the case of financial institutions operating in rural communities), creation of employment opportunities and thus enhancing income-generating activities and making direct financial contributions to promote CD activities.

### 12. Funding By External Development Agencies

12.1 government shall encourage external agencies to participate in the implementation of CD priority programme in appropriate locations throughout the country. Appropriate procedures shall be established to prevent diversion of funds by intermediaries and to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of external funds. Proper modalities shall be worked out whereby the funding agency shall have direct access to the community and be able to adopt the most effective cost-effective mechanism in the implementation of the projects being financed.

### CHAPTER SEVEN

13     **COORDINATION, MONITORING,**

## EVALUATION AND REVIEW

### 13.1   Coordination of CD Activities

13.1.1 Lack of coordination is a bane of CD activities in the country. Coordination is important at each tier of government – Local, State and Federal. There is the need also for overall coordination in the country to shape policy direction and equitable development. Despite the long period of official recognition of CD efforts, coordination of efforts outside the communities has largely been relegated to the background.

13.1.2 Official recognition of CD activities dates back to 1948. Prior to the establishment of parliamentary government in 1951, rural community development was officially promoted by District Officers, Development Officers and adult Education Officers in different parts of the country, bit thereafter CD fell under the hegemony of regional governments. In each region, the responsibility of CD was vested in a particular ministry. It was handled by the ministry of development in the western region, Development secretaries assisted by Development inspectors in the Northern region and by the ministries of internal affairs in the Eastern region. The CD programmes were to focus attention on self-help projects, youth clubs adult literacy and staff development. In general, government involvement has been characterized by indecision and lack of foresight

concerning the role it should play and contributions to be made to supplement he efforts of the people. Thus, for a long time, CD was tossed around from one ministry to another because it was difficult to reach a consensus regarding the appropriate ministry to handle it, until 1976 when as a result of local government reform; CD was placed under the ministry of local government. The ministry of local government was phased out under the Babangida regime and this disrupted the coordination of CD activities at the state level. In some states now, CD is domiciled in the ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development or in a department in the office of the Executive Governor. At the Federal level, CD has been shifting bases, from the Federal ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development to Federal ministry of Health. The location in the different places at different times and by different tiers of government may not be the main problem per se but with changes in domiciliation, CD activities lost focus and policy attention. The under-development of several communities remains a major concern in Nigeria of the 21$^{st}$ century.

### 13.2   Establishment of Community Development Department

13.2.1 Community development coordinating institutions have to be established in the country. The coordination shall be at Federal, supervision shall be done by the state while the main actions shall be at the local government level. At the state level, a Community Development Department (CDD) shall be established and this shall be domiciled in the Ministry of Local Government or department of Local Government (whichever is

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applicable) in a particular state. The CDD shall be responsible for developing CD within the state, including project monitoring and evaluation and strengthening the local government, community linkages and community participation. At the Federal level, there shall be a Community Development Department, which shall establish a strong link with the Community Development Departments in the states. It shall also be involved in establishing partnerships with financiers of CD projects, training and information sharing.

### 13.2 Coordination of Activities of External Development Agencies

13.3.1 The involvement of external agencies in CD activities shall be coordinated by the Community Development Coordinating Unit (CDCU) to ensure sustainability and conformity with the policy objectives and development strategies of the government. Part of the coordination shall be the reconciliation of interests of the donor agencies, the service providers, the beneficiaries and the Government. Government shall provide guidelines for the operations of service providers to ensure effective project implementation. It shall be in the interest of government to ensure that all the parties involved comply with laid down regulations.

### 13.4 Capacity Building for CD Practitioners

13.4.1 In order to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of CD services, there is need to make adequate provisions for the
· continous training of CD staff, as well as community / opinion leaders at the levels of intervention.

13.4.2 There is also the need to provide relevant training infrastructure, appropriate CD curriculum and other training technical support.

*14*    *MONITORING AND EVALUATION*

9.1    Several organisations involved in CD seem to give very little attention to monitoring and evaluation. A number of NGOs rely more on external monitoring by donors than internal monitoring. Usually, the methods they adopt include writing of progress reports and video recording of activities. CD activities are also monitored through visits by donor representatives and NGO staff to the project sites and beneficiaries. Although these monitoring methods appear to be simple and straight forward, they are not completely effective. The problems militating against effective monitoring are diverse and numerous. They include the following:

(i)    Project beneficiaries do not keep proper records. This implies that accurate igformation for management decisions relating to the project may not be available

(ii)    Insufficient working equipment

(iii)    Insufficient funds

(iv)    Lack of training opportunities to upgrade the skill of staff involved in project monitoring

(v)    Lack of cooperation from clients

(vi)    Difficult terrain; especially in the riverine areas;

(vii)    Cultural barriers

(viii)    Lack of means of mobility to reach the remote areas

(ix)   No free access to information

(x)   Uncooperative attitude of staff of implementing agencies.

9.2   These problems shall be addressed to ensure that the desired results are obtained from monitoring activities. The officials involved in monitoring shall be well trained and equipped with necessary facilities. In principles, the exercise should be reared towards helping service providers to succeed and recipients to maximize their benefits.

## 15   EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

15.1 Like in case of other development projects, CD projects have to be evaluated from time to time. The NGOs and other organisations involved in CD in the country have used a variety of evaluation methods. Basically, the methods vary due to;

(i)   Variation in project location, resources requirement and target population

(ii)   Differences in the level of education and skill of beneficiaries

(iii)   Differences in types of project

15.2 The common evaluation methods used by such organisations can be classified into two broad categories as follows:

**A.   Internal Evaluation Methods**
(i)   Data / report based

(ii)   Action based (Audio-Visual)

(iii)   On-the-spot Assessment

(iv)   Review of statistics.

(v)   Observation

**B.   External Evaluation Methods**
(i)   Donor Actions.

(ii)   Consultancy

(iii)   Other interested party

15.3 In general, evaluation of CD projects especially those implemented by NGOs are still largely being done on an ad-hoc basis. There is no organised and systematic procedure for project evaluation. This is underscored by the fact that there is no specific unit charged with the evaluation function. Thus internally, the responsibility falls on different staff at different times. Besides, different projects are sometimes being implemented at the same time; and it is only the one that is being funded externally that will be subjected to any sort of evaluation at the instance of the donor.

15.4 In the area of CD, some NGOs have applied the data/report-based internal evaluation method. The procedure is to compare achievements with pre-determined goals and objectives based on reports of monitoring activities. Action-based evaluation refers to the use of audio-visual techniques in assessing project achievements. Some NGOs that have adopted this approach embark on video recording of the various stages of the projects and take photographs to demonstrate their achievements. Examples of such projects include training workshops, farmers working on their farms, improved post-harvest technology and re-planning of an informal squatter settlement. Another method of internal evaluation is on-the-spot assessment of project achievement and impact on beneficiaries.

15.5 With respect to external evaluation, the donors, consultants and other interested parties are the common categories of evaluators. The NGOs usually have no say concerning the procedures to be adopted. However, only a few NGOs have had the experience of being evaluated by external agents. Even with limited experience of CD project evaluation, several factors have been identified as impediments to effective evaluation. They include the following:

(i) Lack of proper records by project beneficiaries

(ii) Lack of equipment for accurate evaluation

(iii) Inadequate funding and logistics

(iv) Language barriers

(v) Poor response to questionnaires, due to fear, ignorance and lack of interest

(vi) Unwillingness of people to give out information; and

(vii) Suspicion by respondents who tend to present unrealistic impression.

15.6 To have effective evaluation, these problems must be solved and the following factors must be taken into consideration:

(i) There is need to ensure that project beneficiaries understand the limits of the responsibilities and assistance that can be offered by the service provider or development partners

(ii) Tools of evaluation must be very reliable for easy identification of problems and additional knowledge

(Iii) Good results can only be obtained when proper monitoring is carried out

(iv) Evaluation personnel must be well trained

(v) There is need to be more participatory in the approach to project evaluation

(vi) Evaluation result must be circulated to all stakeholders involved in community development programme.

### 2007

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR STRENTHENING AND RE-POSITIONING CD IN NIGERIA

The following guiding principles for repositioning and strengthening community development policy and practice in Nigeria have been distilled from the draft of the Community Development Policy for Nigeria and from postulations around which fairly broad consensus is evident in the relevant literature.

Principle 1: *Community* for the purpose of the strategic framework shall be defined, as in the draft CD policy, as a group in face-to-face contact, bound by common values and objectives, with a basic harmony of interest and aspirations. It can be located in the rural and urban areas. And *community development* is the process by which efforts of the people themselves are united with those of government authorities and non-governmental agencies to improve the conditions of the communities, to integrate them into the life of the nation, and to enable them contribute to national progress.

Principle 2: Self-*determination / self-reliance* – All CD interventions shall seek to empower communities to be self-reliant and to take initiative in the identification of their priority

issues and problems, the diagnosis of these problems, and the development and implementation of solutions to them. CD entails providing opportunities for communities to fully participate in decision making processes that affect them

Principle 3: *Inclusiveness / participation* – Promote the active involvement of all community members particularly those who are traditionally excluded in information gathering and problem diagnosis, planning, direction setting, and decision making regarding outcomes that affect community development. The goal must always be for any development intervention targeting a community to be driven by it.

Principle 4: *Responsiveness / accountability* – Ensure that any change process enables the demands of the community to be met in a relevant and timely manner and allows for prompt disengagement from or termination of any effort that is likely to adversely affect the disadvantaged segments of the community. It should also foster accountable decision making through which all perspectives within the community are considered and the resources mobilized for development are transparently and cost-effectively deployed.

Principle 5: *Collaboration/ partnership* – All CD efforts must establish and foster partnership that aim to achieve positive outcomes for all residents, emphasizing shared leadership and promoting a culture of working and learning together within the community and in relating with external stakeholders and other communities.

Principle 6: *Capacity building-* CD must support and strengthen individuals, families and communities to identify and develop solutions at the local level. It must help community leaders to understand and lead the process of devising effective responses to the economic, social, political, environmental, and psychological impact associated with alternative solutions to any problem in focus.

Principle 7: *Equity / social justice* - All CD processes must ensure that opportunities and

resources that are available to the community are distributed in a just and equitable manner according to community needs. It must promote respect and value for diversity and difference, human rights for all, and help to address power imbalances between individuals and groups.

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

### GOAL
To strengthen and re-position community development practice towards meeting the MDGs and promoting sustainable development in Nigeria.

### OBJECTIVES
The following objectives are set to achieve the goals of this strategic framework.

1. To generate support from policy makers, donor agencies, religious and opinion leaders, NGOs, CBOs and FBOs, the organized private sector (OPS), and other stakeholders for the application of CD as a central strategy in the implementation of all policies and programmes geared towards poverty eradication and human development

2. To raise awareness and full recognition of the potentials of CD by all levels of government and the citizenry at large.

3. To hasten the establishment of an organized system of service delivery at te community level that engenders community self-reliance / active participation in the development process and effective linkages between all tiers of government and the community and between the community and other stakeholders.

4. To equip communities with the necessary information, resources, and competence for effectively participating in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all development programmes that impact them.

5. To increase the availability and

accessibility of quality CD support services to communities across Nigeria

6. To build the capacity of all CD and related professionals, advocates, and volunteers in delivering and managing quality CD programmes and services.

7. To equip relevant policy makers and programme managers to mainstream CD into all poverty reduction, health promotion, education, environmental management, gender equity, and development assistance / corporate social responsibility programmes.

## STRATEGIES

The following strategic areas are to be emphasised for action under the National Strategic Framework for CD in Nigeria. They are to be fully deployed for addressing the main barriers, as identified in the draft CD policy, to the use of CD as a central strategy for advancing human development in Nigeria.

a. Advocacy

b. Community mobilisation and public enlightment

c. Training and capacity building

d. Resource mobilisation, management and sustainability

e. Infrastructures and service delivery

f. Institutional partnerships (roles and responsibilities)

g. Coordination, monitoring and Evaluation.

CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE OPENING PLENARY



CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE PLENARY SECTION ON THE COMMUNITY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, MALARIA & TUBERCULOSIS



PARTICIPANTS AT THE PLENARY ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, POVERTY REDUCTION & PRO-POOR SERVICES.

PLENARY SESSION ON
GENDER ISSUES IN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
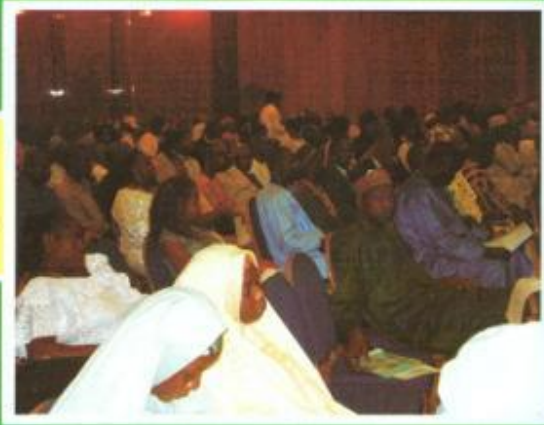


ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS
MAKING HIS CONTRIBUTIONS
AT THE CLOSING
PLENARY SESSION



CROSS SECTION OF
DELEGATES AT THE
CLOSING CEREMONY

PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONFERENCE EXHIBITION BOOTHS



A SPEAKER AT AN ABSTRACT SESSION MAKING HER PRESENTATION



CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE SESSION

PRESENTER AT THE SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS.



DR. C. UBANI OF THE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION COMMISSION (UBEC) AND A PRESENTER AT THE ABSTRACT SESSION ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND THE QUEST FOR UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION.



A PRESENTER OF ONE OF THE ABSTRACT SESSIONS

DEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & POPULATION
ACTIVITIES FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

COMMUNITY LIFE PROJECT

Report of National Conference on Community Development in Nigeria (NCCD 2007) January 28 - February 2, 2007



DR. JEROME MAFENI (ENHANSE USAID) AND ONE OF THE PRESENTERS



MR. MIKE EGBOH PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL AND DR. CLARA LADI EJEMBI (DEPT OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE, ABU ZARIA.



CHIEF MRS. BISI OGUNLEYE (LOWAN); TAMES LINEGBU (CLP); DR. BABATUNDE AHONSI (FRD) FOUNDATION AND ERIC SHU (ACTION AND INTERNATIONAL)

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**A PRESENTER AT THE SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS**
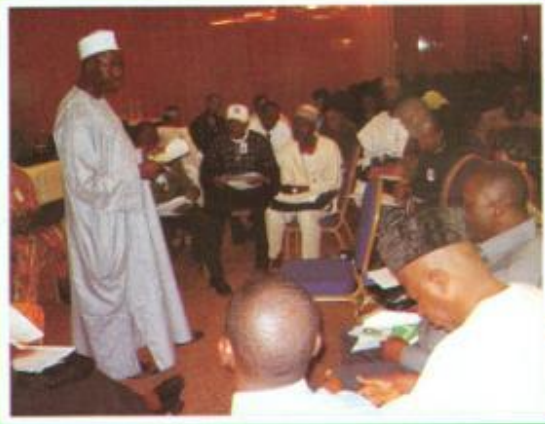
**GROUP WORK ON THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CD POLICY IN NIGERIA.**

**GROUP WORK ON THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CD POLICY IN NIGERIA.**
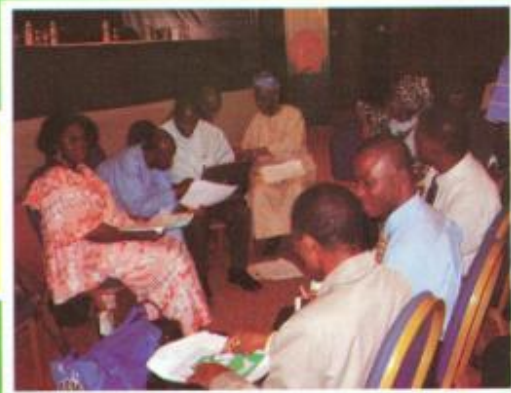
**EXHIBITION STAND**

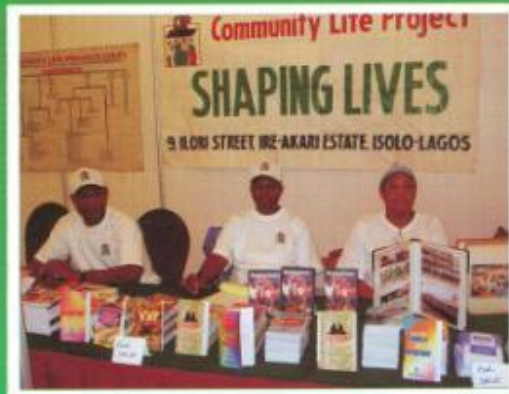**PARTICIPANTS LISTENING WITH RAPT ATTENTION IN ONE OF THE SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS.**

**EXHIBITION OF MATERIALS BY THE COUNTRY WOMEN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (COWAN)**

*EXHIBITION BY SHELL PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT COMPANY*



*EXHIBITION OF MATERIALS BY COMMUNITY LIFE PROJECT (CLP)*



*LEAD RAPPORTEUR, PROF. SOLA AKINRIWADE (2ND FROM LEFT WITH OTHER CONFERENCE RAPPORTEURS*

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Community Life Project, which served as the Conference Secretariat, is one of the country's foremost community based non-governmental organizations. Founded in 1992 and registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission, CLP is reknowned for having developed a highly successful and simple model of community-centred and people-driven intervention promoting gender equality, sexual/reproductive health and general well-being of families and youths in the country. The CLP model involves maintaining a sustained relationship with an extensive network of partners comprising community associations, faith-based organizations, schools, health institutions and local authorities around a common agenda for family and community empowerment.

We are leading advocates for the repositioning of Community Development towards achieving people-centred and people-driven sustainable development in the country. Most of our activities centre on advocacy, training, community organizing and mobilization, research, partnership building, production and dissemination of educational materials.

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ff FORD FOUNDATION-WEST AFRICA

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